DRAGON EYE
KAIRI FUJIYAMA
7

DRAGON EYE

KAORI YUKIMURA

Ballantine Books

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS!

VIUS's annual exhibition tournament begins! As colleagues and foreign dignitaries watch, Hibiki, Leila, Yukimura, and Issa endure the opening rounds. Will one of them reign supreme, or will fearsome warriors from a rival squad take the prize? Meanwhile, behind the scenes, dark shadows are gathering: A nefarious plot is afoot to bring down Captain Issa!

Includes special extras after the story!

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DEL REY KODANSHA

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A new story arc has begun! During these chapters, someone will mature, and a certain mystery will be cleared up. But more than anything else, this author just can't wait to actually draw the upcoming pages!

—Kairi Fujiyama

= Dragon Eye =

Kairi Fujiyama

6 years ago in Mikuni City

7

龍眼

Story of DRAGON EYE

龍眼物語

It has been several decades since the D Virus, whose infected victims transform into murderous monsters known as Dracules, spread across the world. The human population plummeted severely and the world was approaching a crisis point....Those who emerged to protect people from the Dracules came to be called the VIUS.

VIUS Squad Zero captain Issa is a warrior who bears the Dragon Eye, a mysterious and powerful weapon, on his forehead. Together with his Squad Zero members Leila and Sôsei, he spends his days protecting Mikuni City from Dracules.

The exhibition tournament that displays Mikuni VIUS's strength through competition will soon be taking place. Issa, Leila, and Sôsei are selected to participate in the tournament, but unimaginable intrigue and wonder await!

Kazuma Issa

Squad Zero captain. Seems lackadaisical, but possesses a Dragon Eye and wields the broadsword Diamond Sacred Steel. Because his older sister, Clara, was taken hostage by Dracules, has a history with them.

Yukimura Sôsei

A former Squad Five member who has transferred to Squad Zero. In search of the Daraku that killed his twin sister. Wields twin blades.

Mikami Leila

Newly inducted VIUS member. When she was little, both of her parents were killed by Dracules, and she alone survived. She is searching for a Dragon Eye in order to exterminate Dracules. Her weapon of choice is the *katana* blade.

Aoi Shizue

Squad Six captain. Because Squad Six is a covert ops unit, is good at undercover investigations. She's also the most beautiful member of the Mikuni VIUS; everyone has a crush on her.

Sakuraba Shun'ichi

Said to be the sharpest and strongest Mikuni warrior, he is Squad One captain and a good friend of Issa's. Searching for a woman named Hitomi-san?

Akira Ryoji

Said to be the strongest Squad One member. Seems to have been on bad terms with Hibiki since they were squad mates.

Hibiki Masamune

A former Squad One member who is now with Squad Six. A young but brilliant and talented warrior. Wields two giant blades.

Hyûga Rokurô

Assigned to the Intelligence Corps. Idolizes Issa because his first mission was with Issa's squad. Likes Mikuni's pop star NATSUMI ★ chan.

Rin Kyoko

Was a member of the old Squad Zero, and is currently with Squad Eight. A spell caster who knows the reason the old Squad Zero was disbanded.

Daraku

A mysterious group that is trying to assault Mikuni by manipulating Dracules. They are also the ones who infected Yukimura's twin sister with the D Virus.

Mystery Man

A man who is trying to get Issa exiled from Mikuni by setting Hibiki on him. No one knows why he hates Issa so much. Seems to be a high-level official of some sort...

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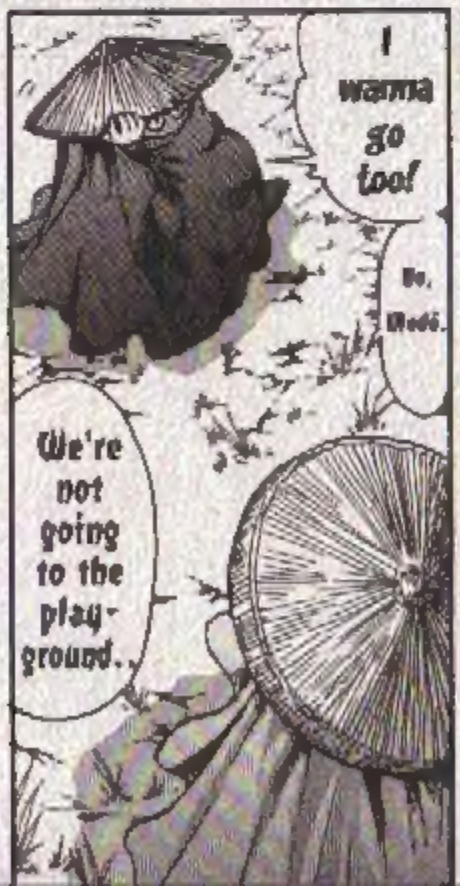
thud

And no one who knew them gets assigned to this duty.
That was ridiculously easy.
Hide the bodies where they won't be found.


I wanna go too!
Er, Dad.
We're not going to the play-ground.

You two, put these on.

WOOOO

WOOOO

WOOOO

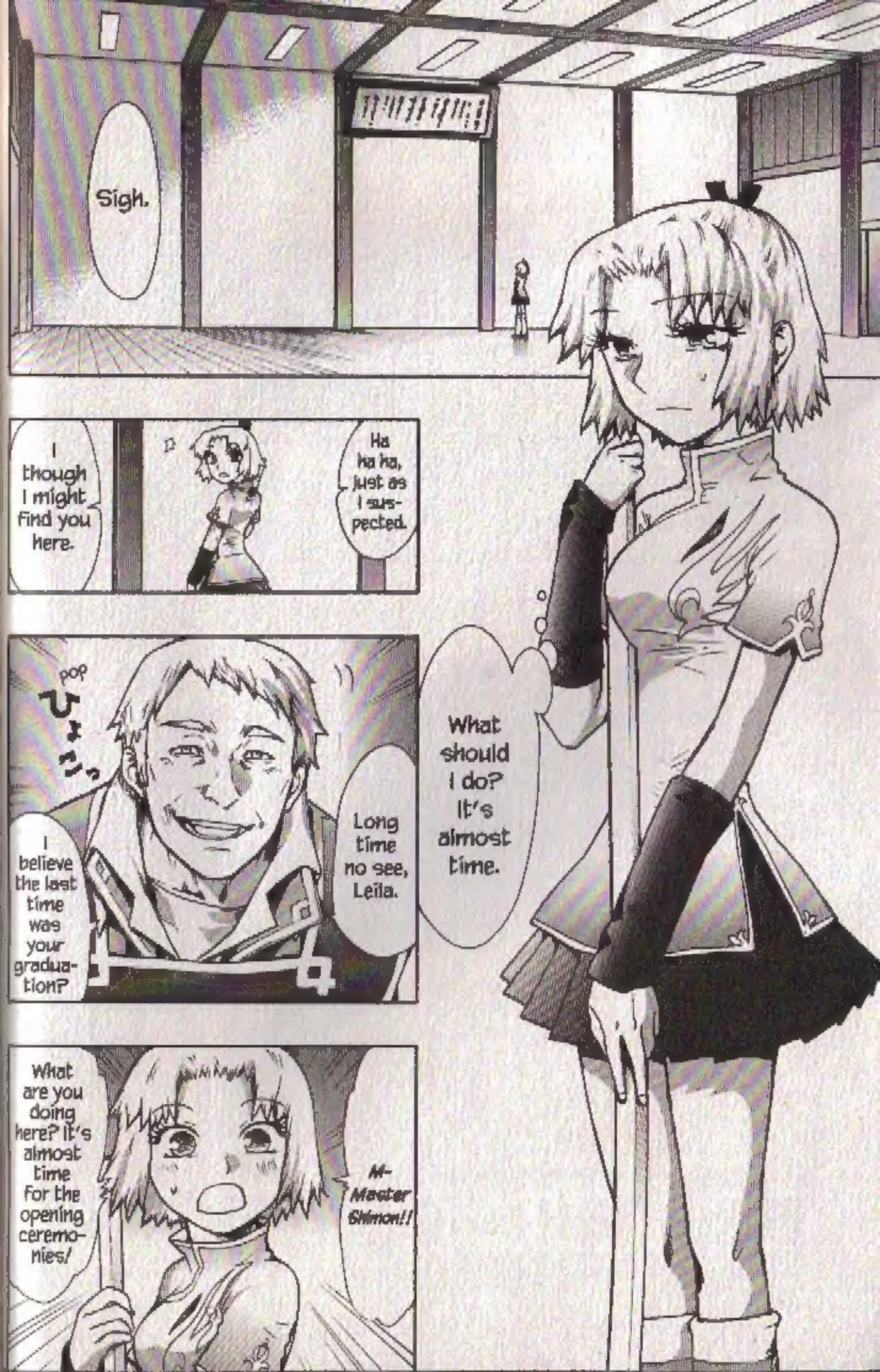
WOOOO

WOOOO

We're going to my battle-ground...

where I shall set off the most splendid fireworks!

Mission • Twenty
Mikuni Entered


Sigh.
What should I do? It's almost time.
I though I might find you here.
Ha ha ha, just as I suspected.
pop
I believe the last time was your graduation?
Long time no see, Leila.
What are you doing here? It's almost time for the opening ceremonies!
M-Master Shimon!!

It makes me wonder if I really have a right to wear this uniform and enter the tournament.
I... ever since I became a VIUS, I'm always being rescued by others.
Ha ha... I could ask the same of you.
What's the matter? You're this year's top scorer and you're standing here alone, looking nervous.
Oh...
Leila, do you remember that day you first rapped on my gate?
So that's it?
I... want to join VIUS!!
Please... teach me swordsmanship!!
You are a tried and true VIUS now.
A shining warrior.

Yes, sir!!
Yes, some warriors here have much more experience than you.
Just think of it as a learning opportunity.
Very well. Let's go then.
...I see.
I love my squad!
Oh no, everything's fine!
Aah... by the way, Leila, are you having any issues with your squad?
Anything at all, and I'll transfer you to the squad of your choice.

Battle Arena
Battle Arena
Set aside your ordinary missions and test the limits of your strengths!
And now begin the preliminary rounds of the 29th Open Exhibition Tournament!!
The captain delegate will fight in the finals, where you have the chance to match swords with him or her.
Let's match your fighting skills—and your wits—against one another. This will be a stepping stone toward your advancement!
Phew. Just made it!!
Leila! I was getting worried

roar

roar

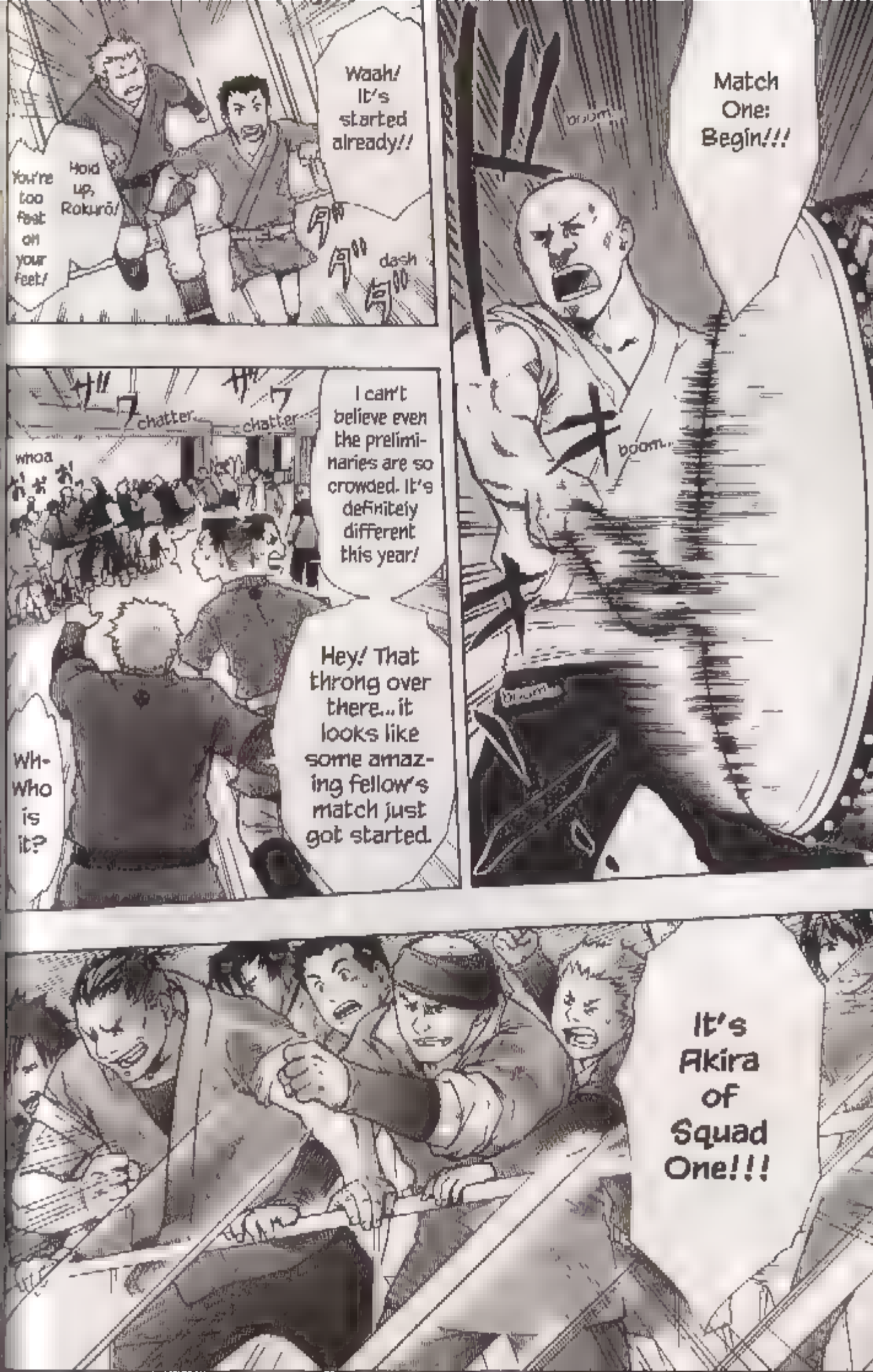
三國三天老

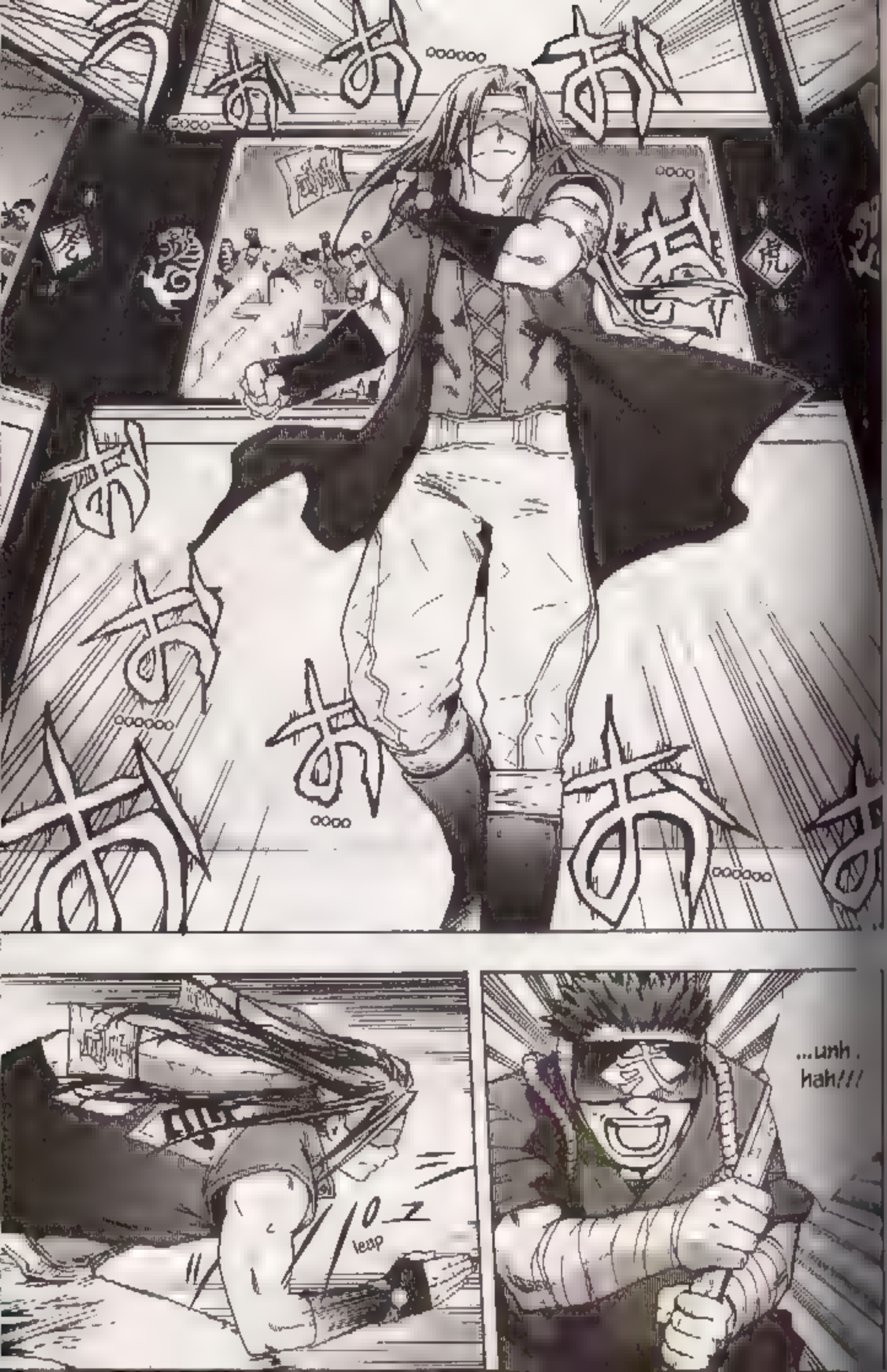
roar

roar

We are looking forward to battles that are worthy of the honorable Mikuni VIUS!!

Dismissed!!


Waah! It's started already!!
Hold up, Rokurō!
You're too fast on your feet!
dash
Match One: Begin!!!
boom
chatter
chatter
whoa
I can't believe even the preliminaries are so crowded. It's definitely different this year!
Hey! That throng over there... it looks like some amazing fellow's match just got started.
Wh-Who is it?
It's Akira of Squad One!!!

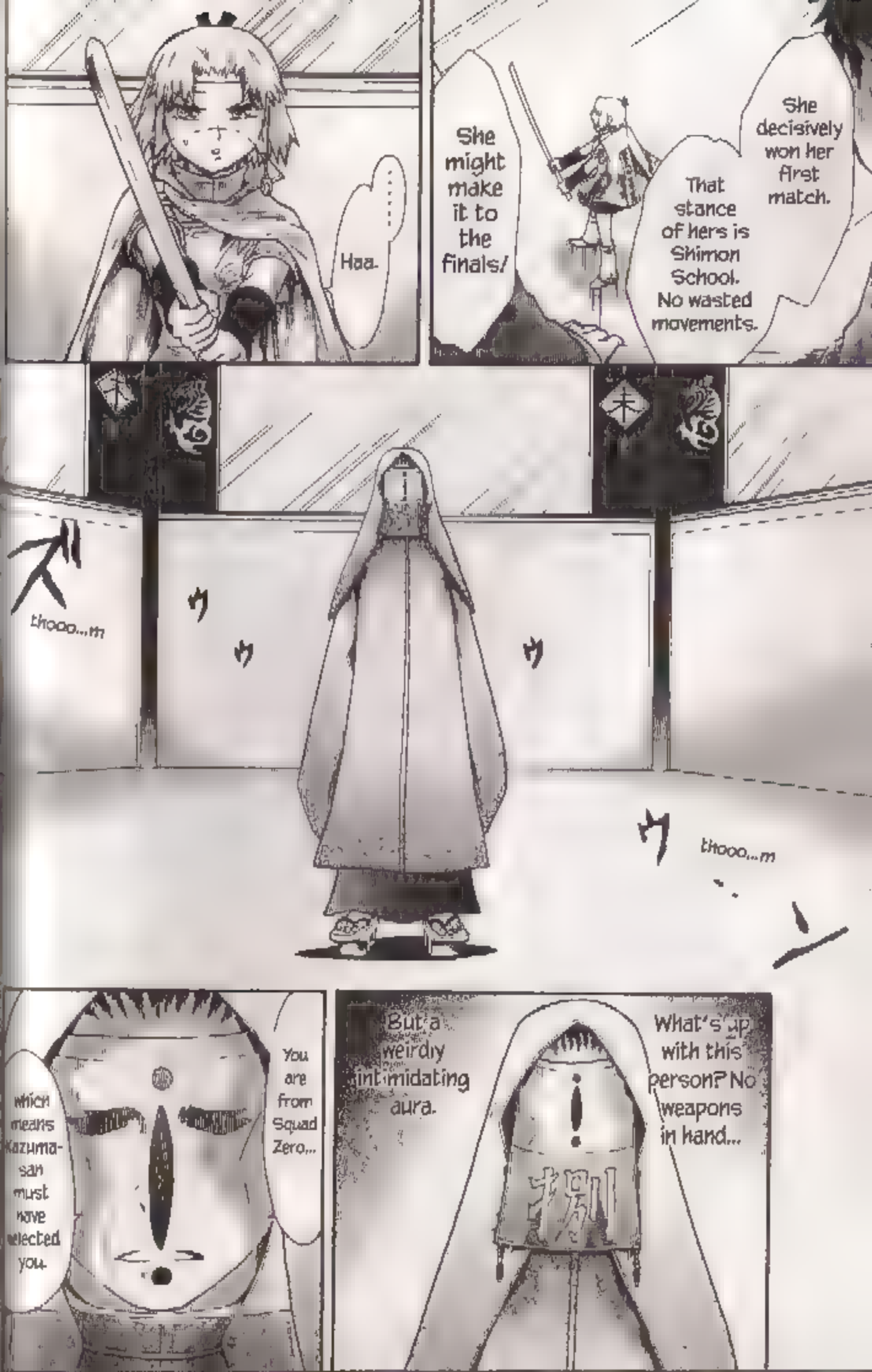

leap
...unh.
hah!!!

swish
thwap
W-Wow, it only took a second!!
He's not carrying his weapon. I guess he doesn't need it until the finals!
mod
thud
Hey, look over here at the Chamber of the Horse!!
I don't know that face. Who is he?!

That veil... he's from Squad Zero!!
He's wearing the dress uniform of a top scorer
leap
Begin!!
clod
Ugh!
ripple
ripple
ripple
whoosh
Tap

Wow, Yukimura-kun sure is amazing!!
Hey, Rokurô, over here!
So many new faces this year!
slam
whump

Who is that?
A Squad Six veil...
I wonder if it's Hibiki-kun?
slump...
What is going on this year?
The rumors have been completely off so far.
You're right. This is no ordinary exhibition tournament.
Plus, if Kazuma-san really is participating...
...it's going to rock!!
She's just a young girl!
This year's top scorer is entering her second match in the Chamber of the Sheep
That's Mikami-san!!


Haa.
She might make it to the finals!
That stance of hers is Shimon School. No wasted movements.
She decisively won her first match.
thooo...m
thooo...m
You are from Squad Zero...
which means Kazuma-san must have selected you.
But a weirdly intimidating aura.
What's up with this person? No weapons in hand...

was a member of the old Squad Zero.
!!
!
!...
You know Isea I mean, Captain Kazuma?
?
I am sorry, but...
!
I must win this match.
!!?

三國第五都

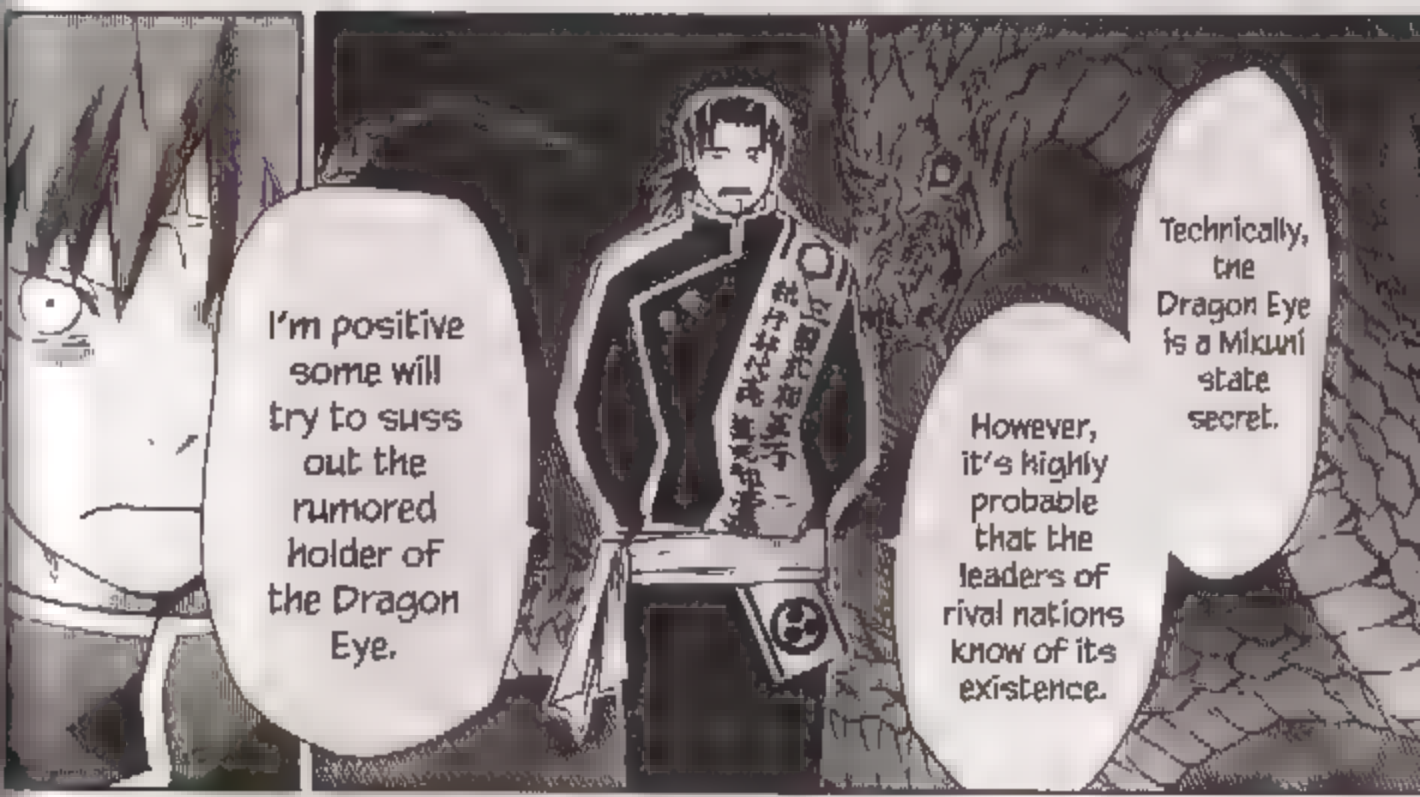
OVIUS 三國

三國第五都

三國第五都

三國第五都

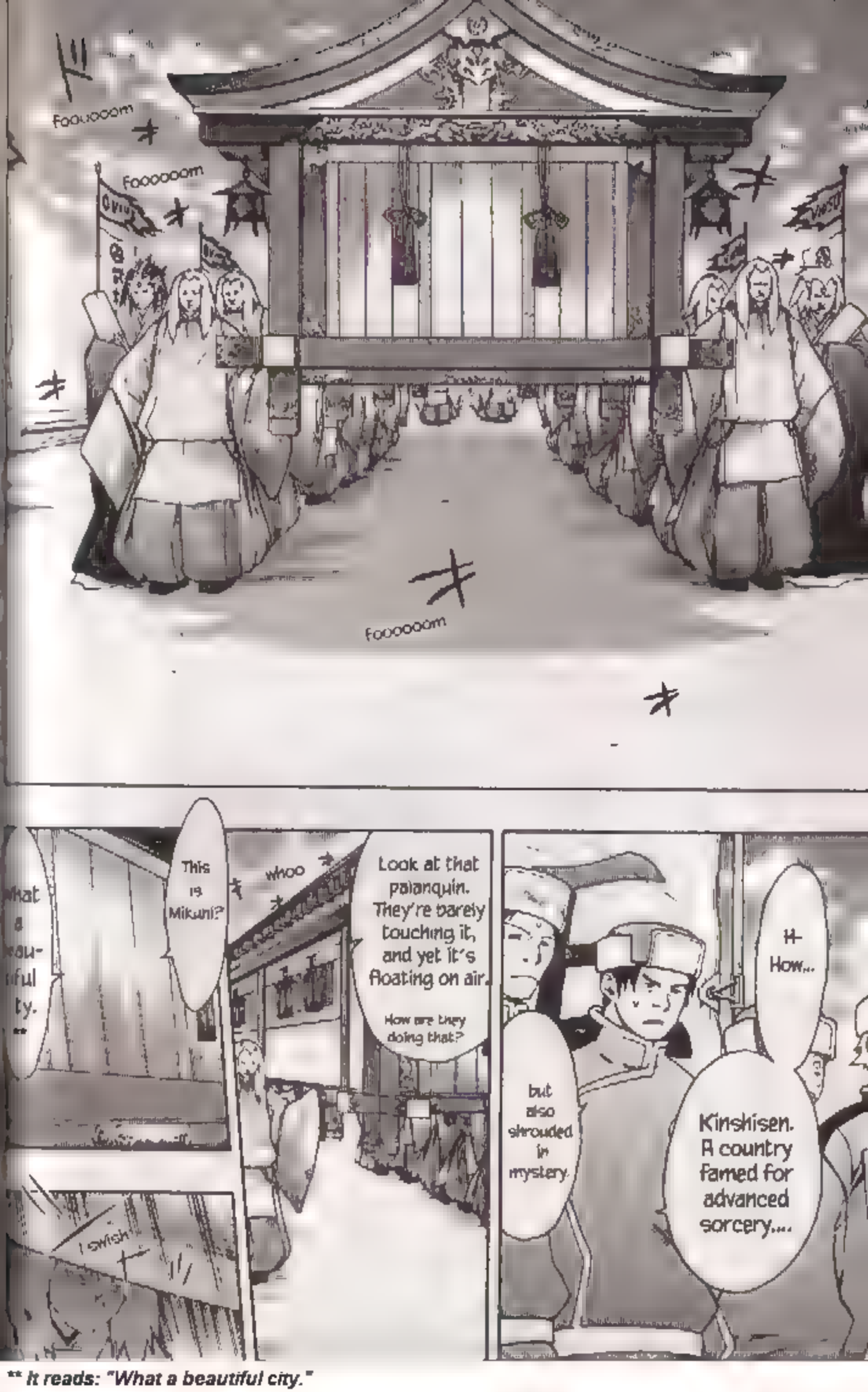
!
And at least some of them will have a special interest in you.
三國武相直
就行部代表
Just letting you know... the VIPs are probably really here to inspect Mikuni Vius City.


I'm positive some will try to suss out the rumored holder of the Dragon Eye.
However, it's highly probable that the leaders of rival nations know of its existence.
Technically, the Dragon Eye is a Mikuni state secret.

Fall in!!!

So be prepared to be exposed to ridicule.

Where are they?
...?
Yes sir.
Behave yourself, Kazuma-kun!
whisper whisper
From Kinshisen Nation, His Majesty the Emperor!
whoosh...
!!
fwhoo
fwhoo



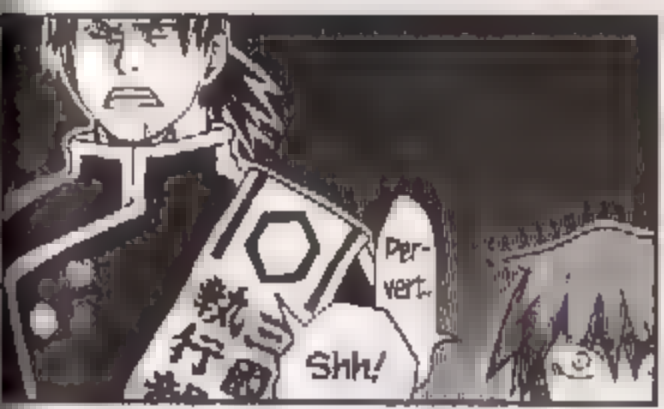
** *It reads: "What a beautiful city."*

I am Jana, emperor of Kinshisen
Thank ye for the welcome.

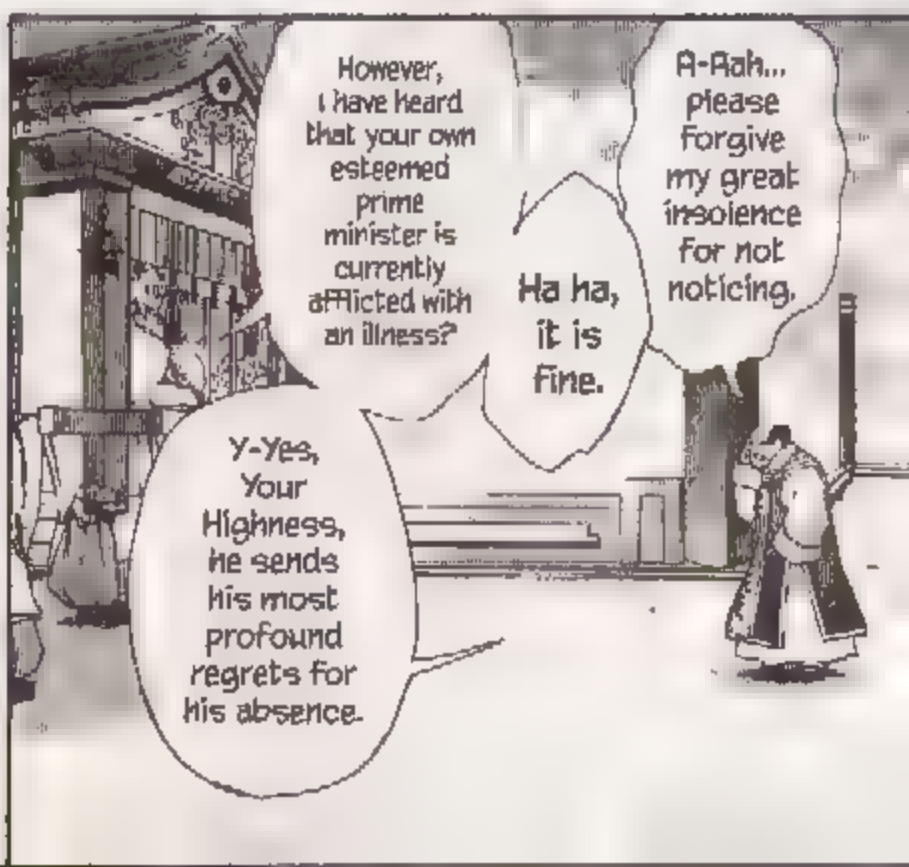
We may be neighbors, but we had yet to set foot here.
My lady mother has been looking forward to this as well.

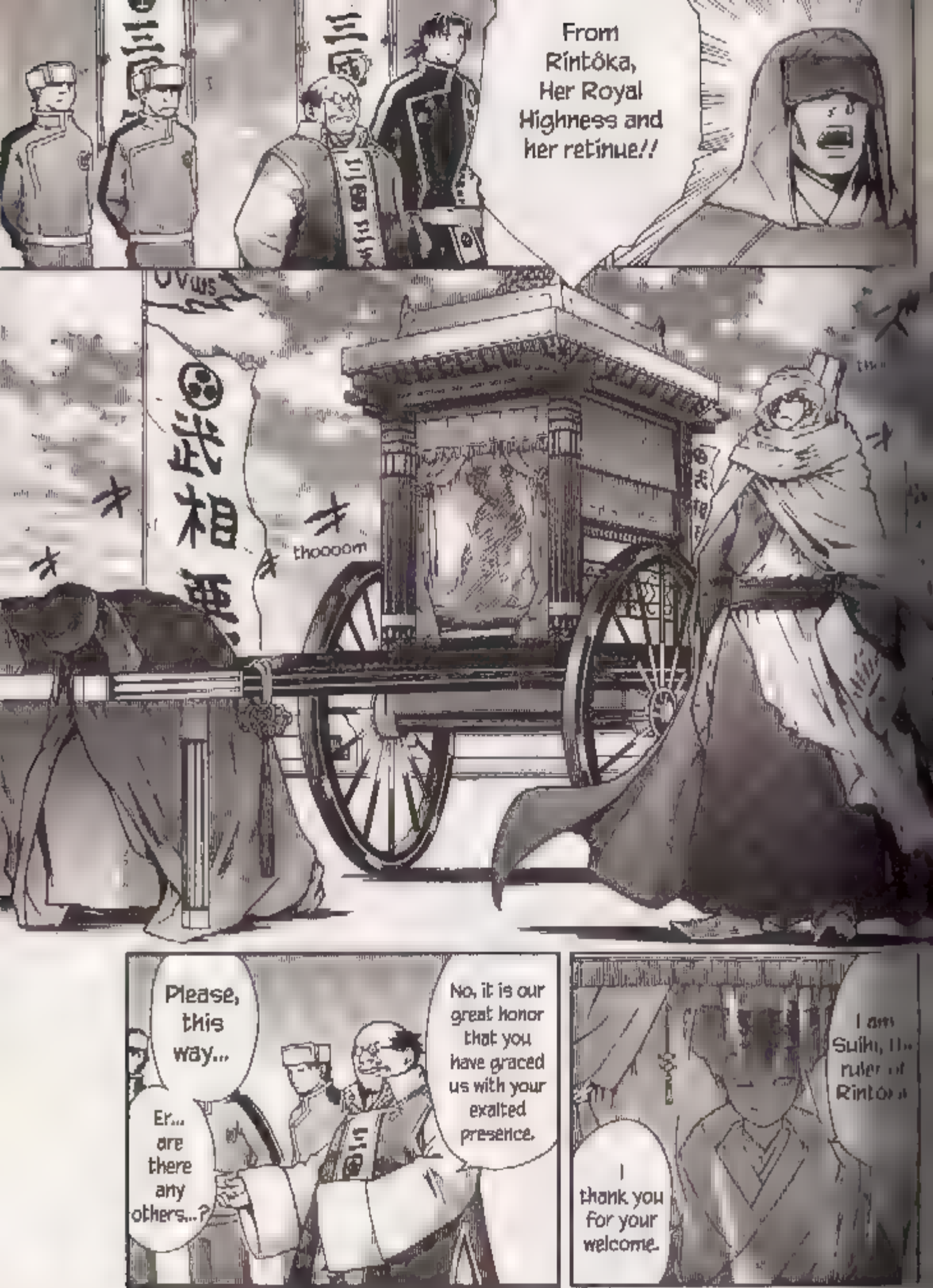
Not at all! It is our great pleasure to have gathered here to greet you.
Yes, thank you.
Welcome, and please enjoy your stay.

Right here!
In-deed!
Lady mother...? You mean...
the Empress Dowager is here!!?

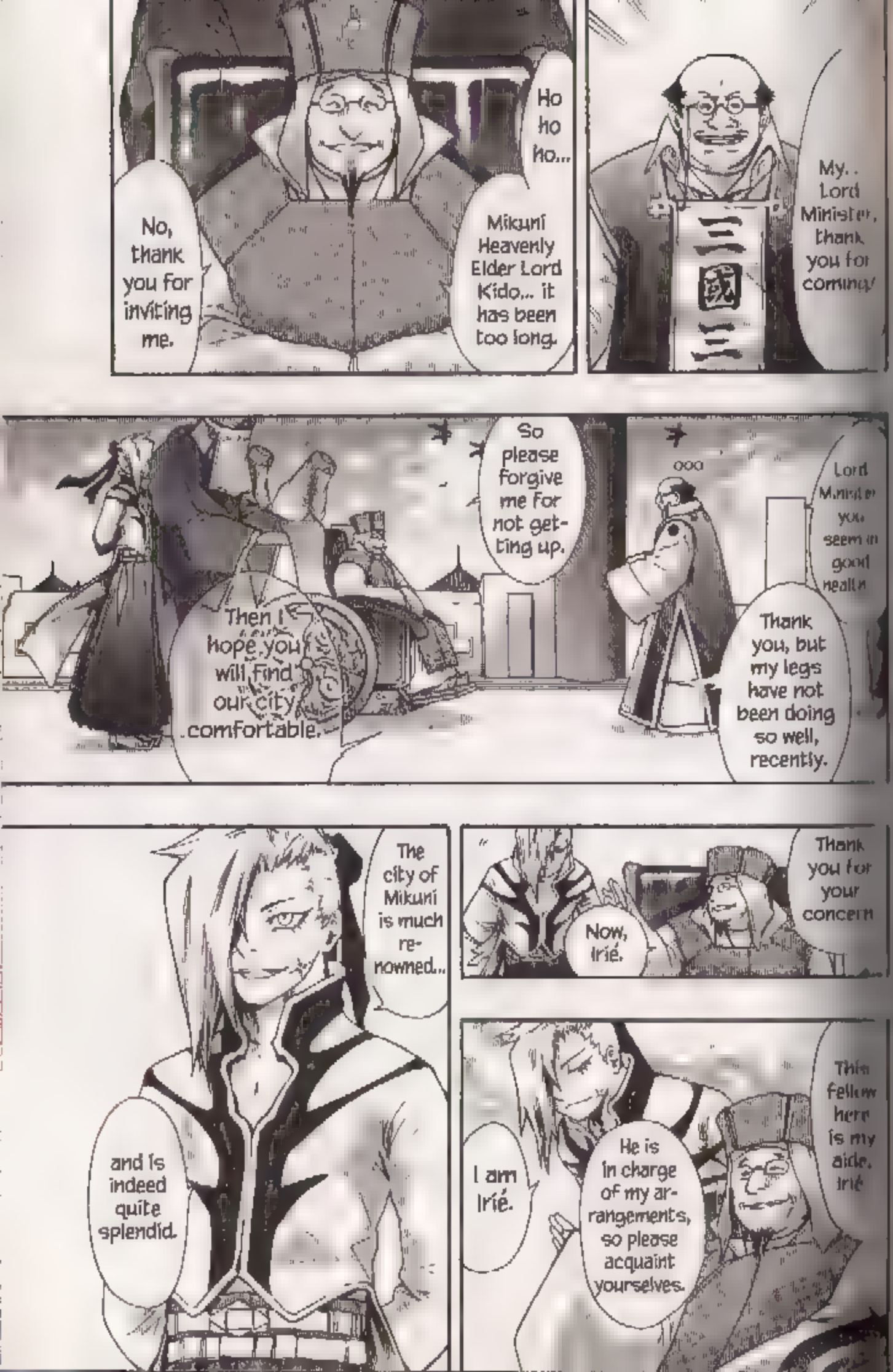

Per-vert.
Shh!

Many thanks! Please, this way.
Aah, but I am not here for reasons of state, so please relay to him my fondest wishes for his recovery.


A-Aah... please forgive my great insolence for not noticing.
However, I have heard that your own esteemed prime minister is currently afflicted with an illness?
Ha ha, it is fine.
Y-Yes, Your Highness, he sends his most profound regrets for his absence.


From Rintôka, Her Royal Highness and her retinue!!
thoooom
Please, this way...
Er... are there any others...?
No, it is our great honor that you have graced us with your exalted presence.
I am Suihi, ... ruler ... Rinto...
I thank you for your welcome.

...?
stare
ジ...
This is all.
The presence of this fellow here is sufficient to ensure my safety while traveling...
...
Taka?
From Nashuan, His Lordship the Minister of State and entourage!!
Phew, the next is the last one.
This way, please.
Takamaru! Are you listening!?
Ah, yes, milady.
FWOOOO
FWOOOO


No, thank you for inviting me.
Ho ho ho...
Mikuni Heavenly Elder Lord Kido... it has been too long.
My.. Lord Minister, thank you for coming!
Then I hope you will find our city comfortable.
So please forgive me for not getting up.
ooo
Lord Minister you seem in good health
Thank you, but my legs have not been doing so well, recently.
The city of Mikuni is much renowned...
and is indeed quite splendid.
Now, Irié.
Thank you for your concern
I am Irié.
He is in charge of my arrangements, so please acquaint yourselves.
This fellow here is my aide, Irié

You must have some... formidable defenses.
It is first and foremost an anti-Dracule stronghold.
And despite it's air of tranquility...
Thank you.
Do not worry.
And for the duration of your stay, we have additional protections in place.
Yes, indeed.
!
くるっ
whirl

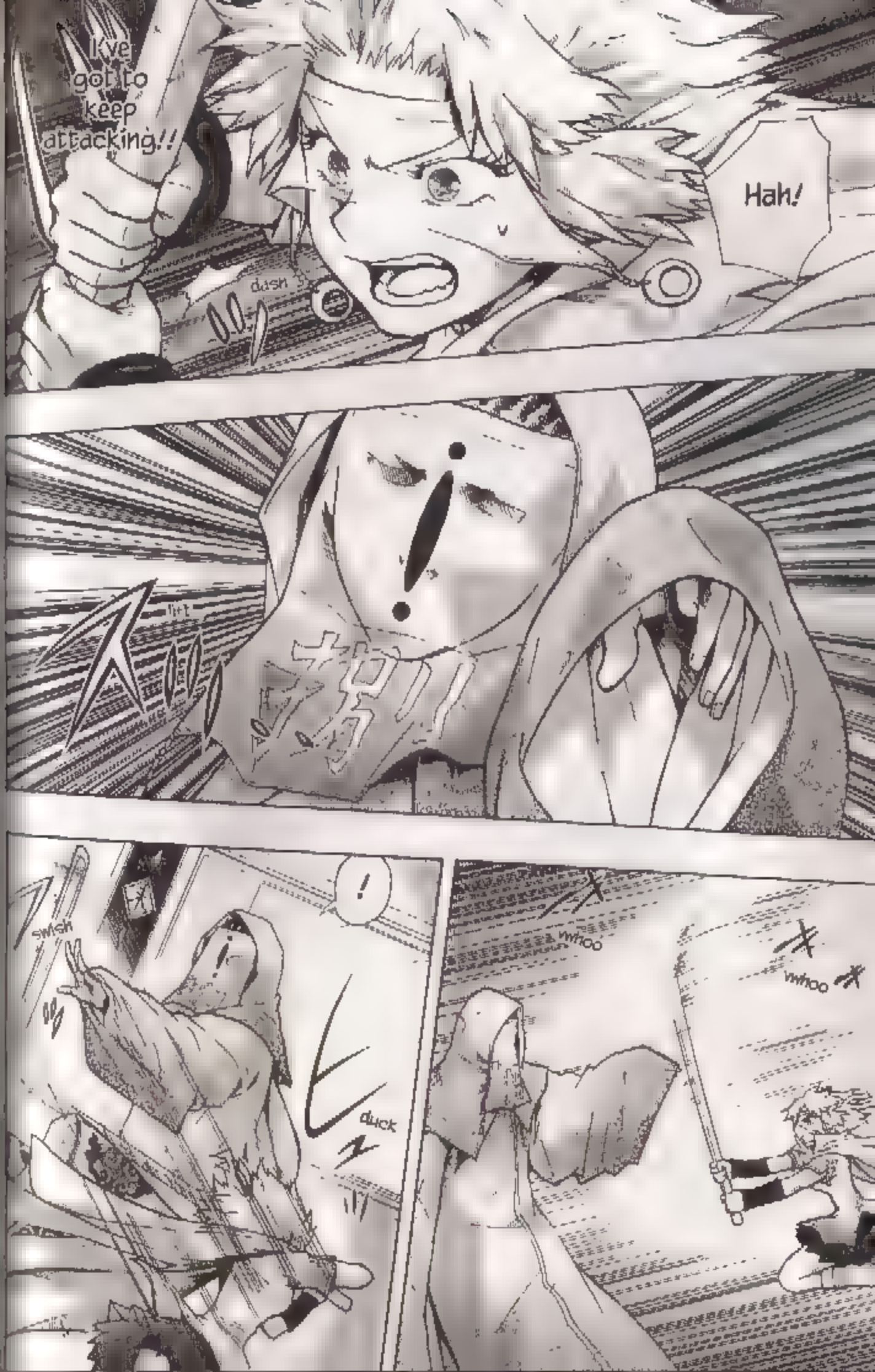
I am looking forward to it, Captain Kazuma.
reach
Captain Kazuma Issa. He will be participating in the finals.
You are th yeni dele gate
grip...

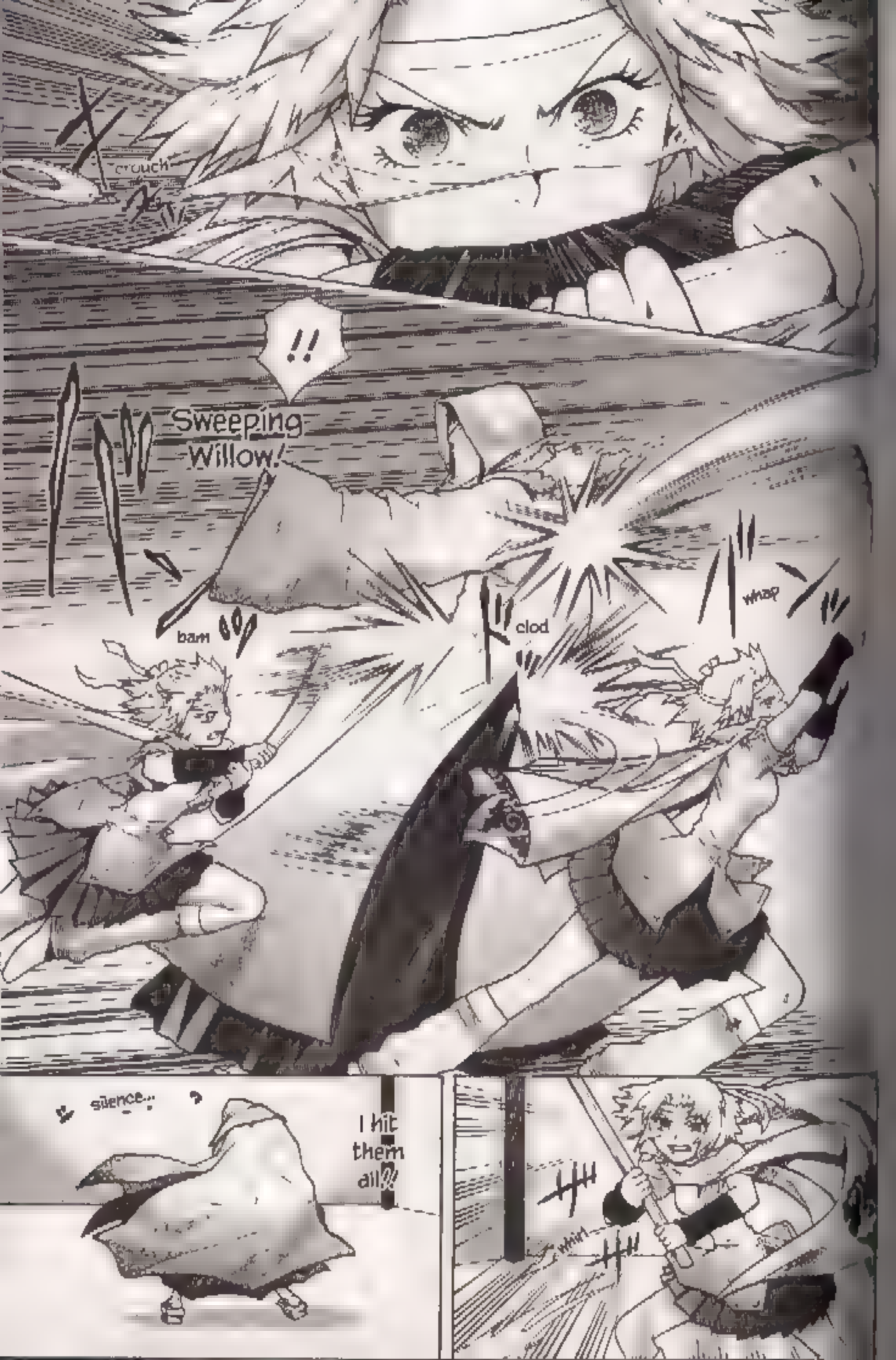
...thanks.
smirk
Be prepared to be exposed to ridicule.

cheer
cheer
.....
I am sorry, but..
I must win this match.
dash

whap
whoosh
pivot
slide...
clod

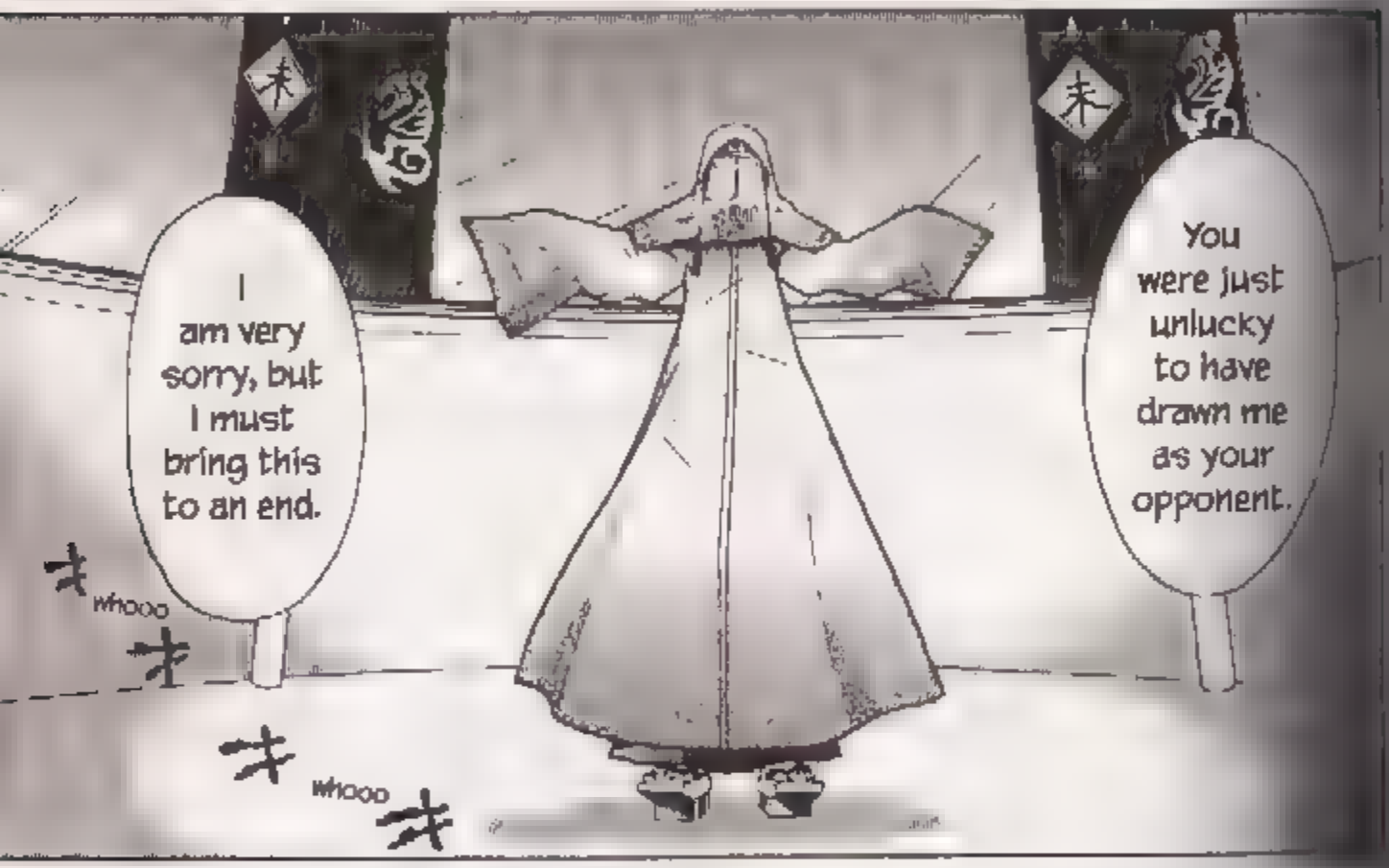
.....
She shouldn't be able to move now...
!!
!
Uh...
Then again... it did feel a little odd...
No way... I know I hit the point...!!
Uh?
Huh

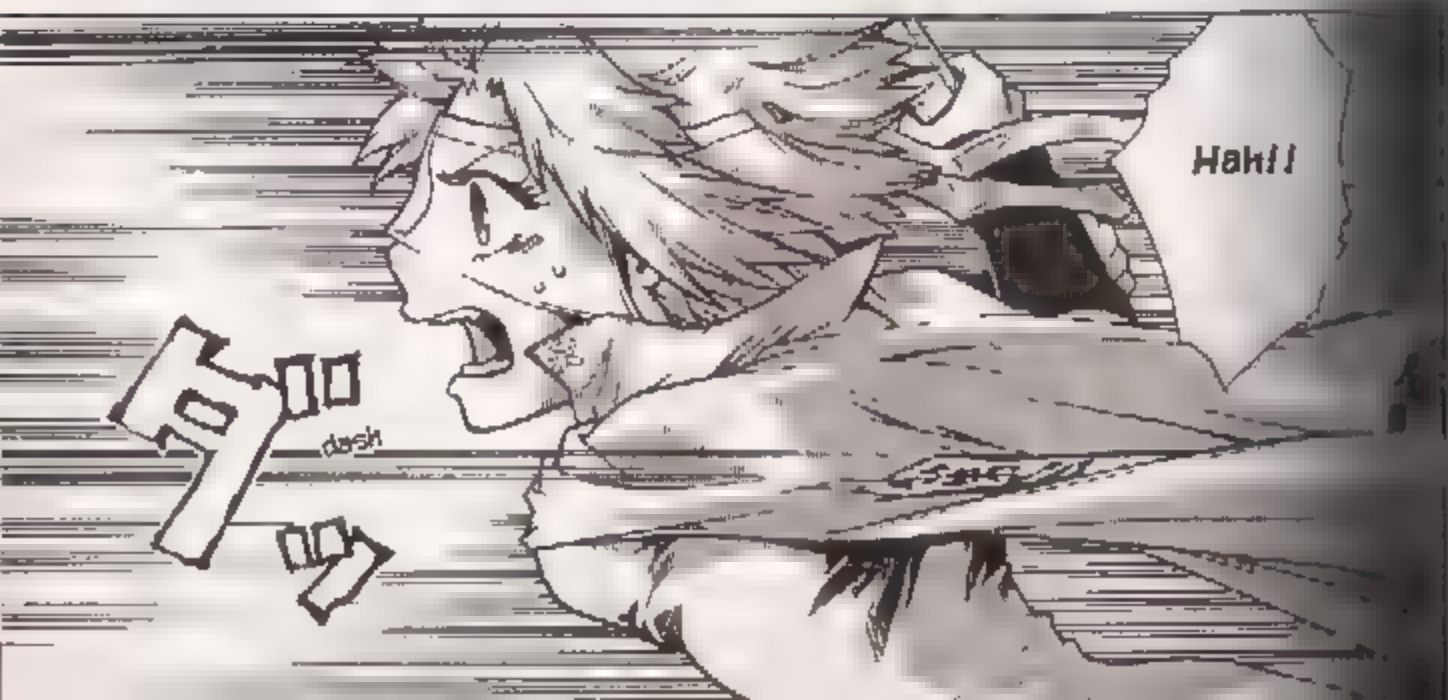

I've got to keep attacking!!
dash
Hah!
!
swish
!
duck
vwhoo
vwhoo


crouch
!!
Sweeping Willow!
bam
clod
whap
silence...
I hit them all?!
whirl

She got her! That girl is good.
That flowing movement unique to the Shimon School is amazing.
Don't you think this match is hers!?
.....
glance...
rise...
No way!!

Once you gain a little more experience, you will become a great warrior.
You are stronger than I had expected.


I am very sorry, but I must bring this to an end.
You were just unlucky to have drawn me as your opponent.
whooo
whooo

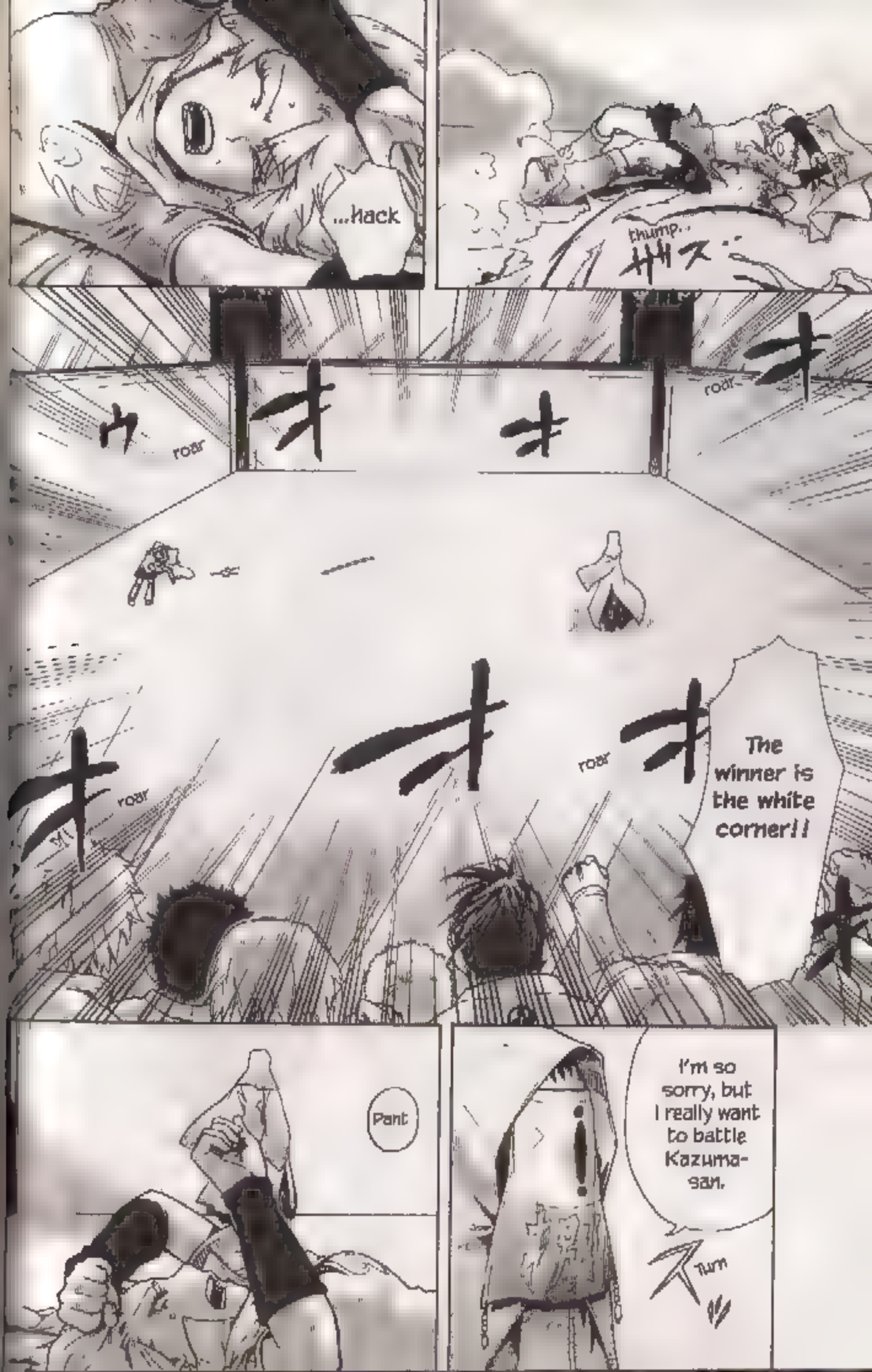

Hah!!
dash

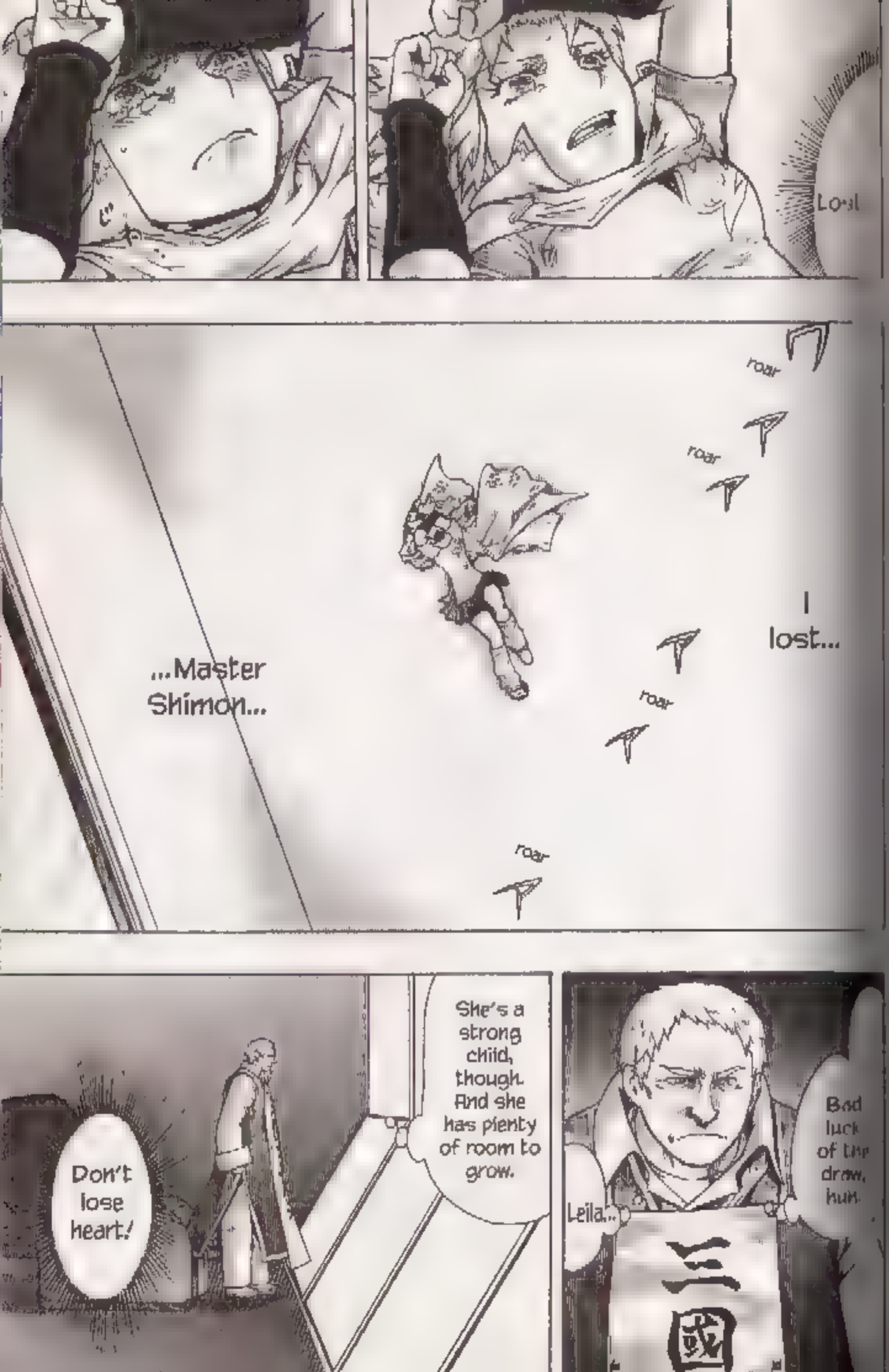
That's...
Leila, no!
whoosh
Palmar Spell Defense

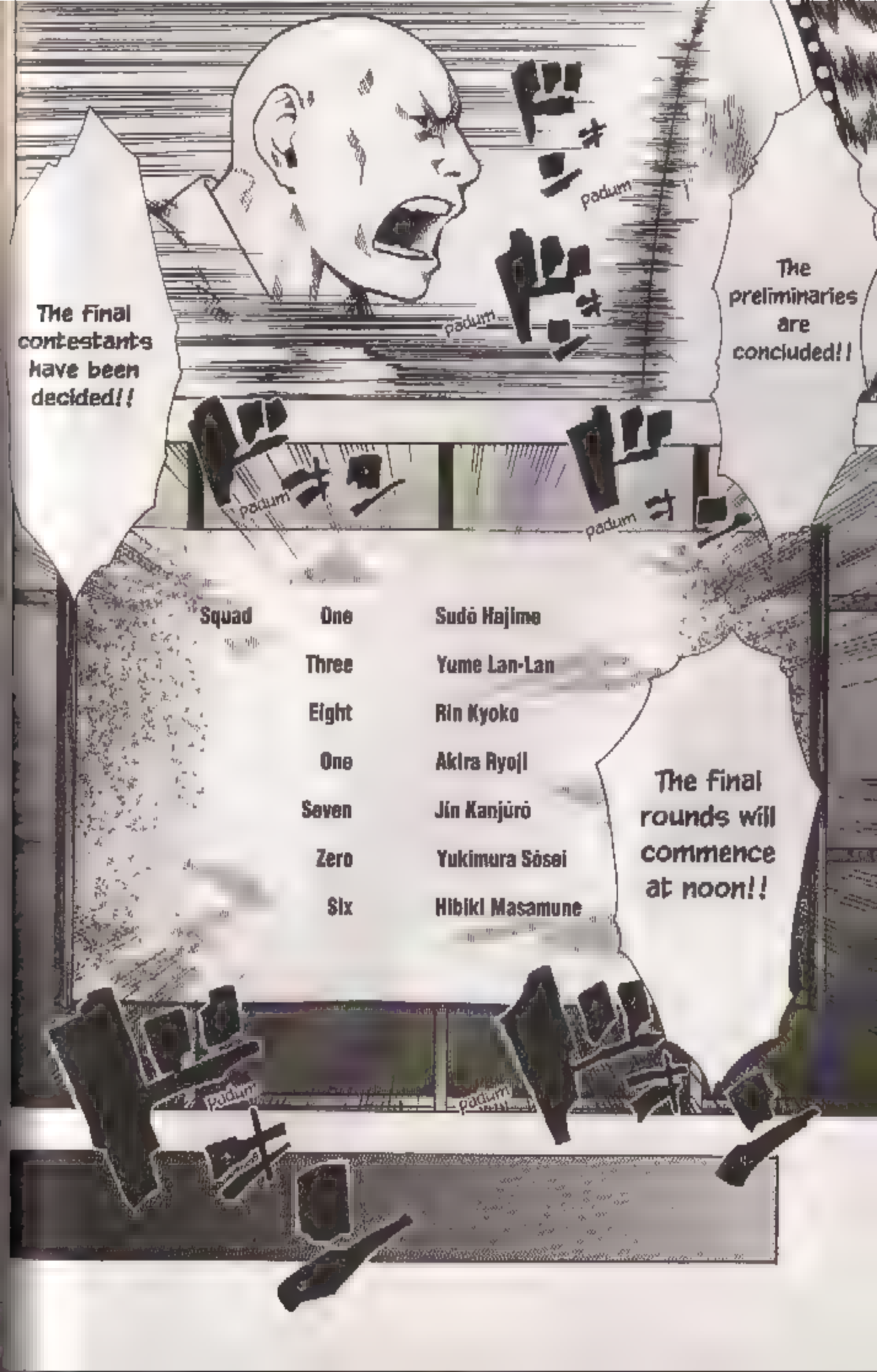
I didn't... hit her...
Pant
Pant
Pant
Pant

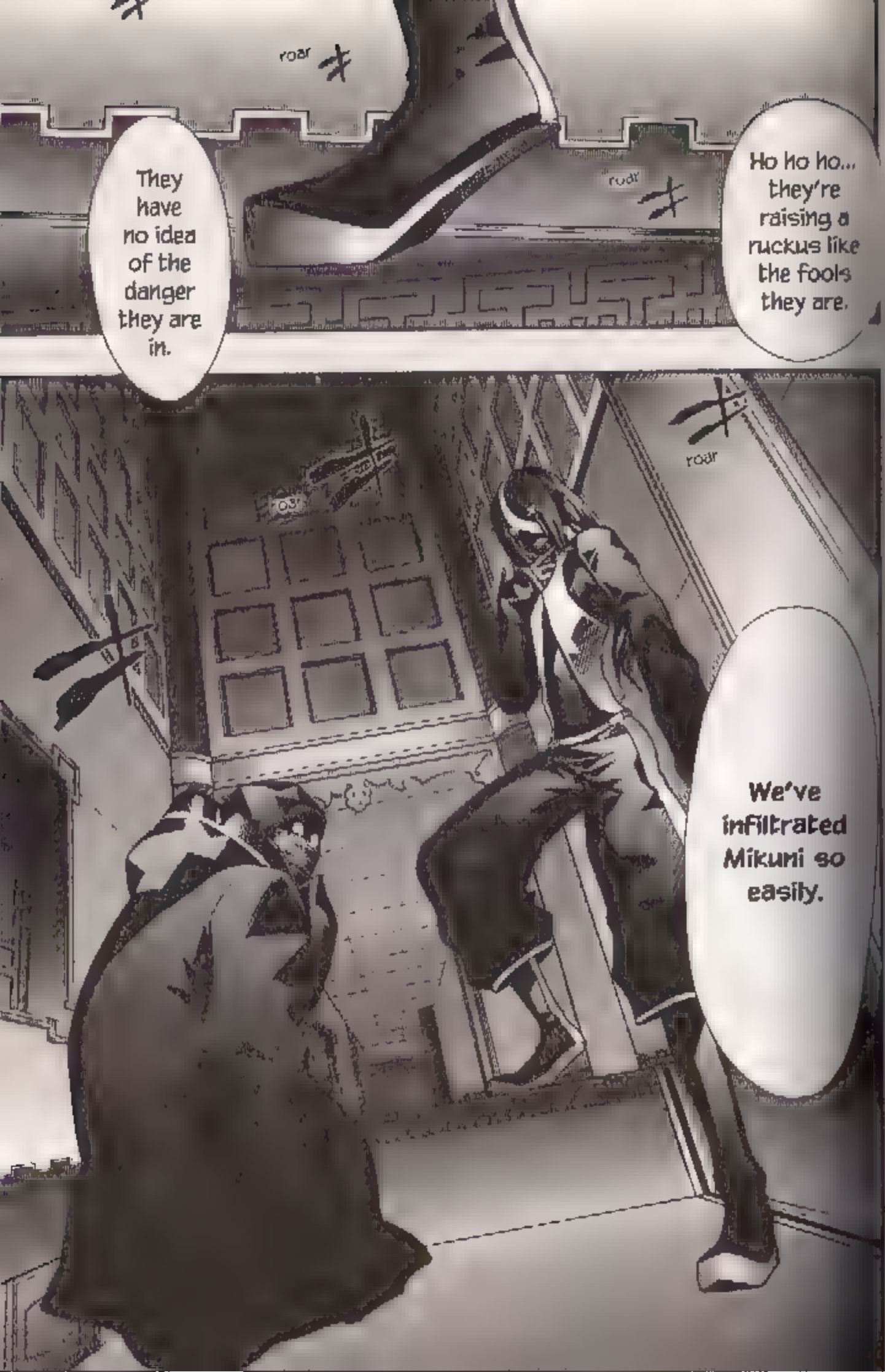
I didn't even touch her!!!
In fact...
...get stron-ger.
Lass...
waft...
Can't move...
Touch

wham
slide
slide
Leila!!


...Hack
thump..
roar
roar
roar
roar
The winner is the white corner!!
Pant
I'm so sorry, but I really want to battle Kazuma-san.
Turn


Lo-st
roar
roar
roar
roar
I lost...
...Master Shimon...
Don't lose heart!
She's a strong child, though. And she has plenty of room to grow.
Leila...
Bad luck of the draw, hun.
三國

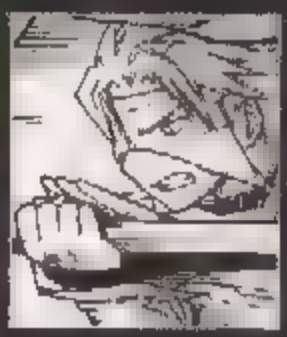

The Final contestants have been decided!!
The preliminaries are concluded!!
padum
padum
padum
padum
Squad One Sudō Hajime
Three Yume Lan-Lan
Eight Rin Kyoko
One Akira Ryoji
Seven Jin Kanjūrō
Zero Yukimura Sōsei
Six Hibiki Masamune
The final rounds will commence at noon!!
padum
padum


roar
roar
They have no idea of the danger they are in.
Ho ho ho... they're raising a ruckus like the fools they are.
roar
roar
We've infiltrated Mikuni so easily.

Competitor Data — Battle Record to Date

Kazuma Issa

As captain delegate, Issa does not have to participate in the preliminaries. Instead, he is sent to help greet dignitaries from other lands. The cape he is wearing over his usual uniform is one of the dress pieces that captain delegates traditionally wear. Incidentally, the symbol on the front of Leila and Yukimura's dress uniforms represents, in fact, the logo mark of the MUR.



Yukimura Sôsei

In the preliminary rounds, he battles a rookie squad three member with a shaven head, an imposing opponent one-and-a-half times his size—and who packs a powerful punch. But Yukimura stymies his opponent with the tip of his sword right away! While his enemy momentarily immobilized by the pain, Yukimura deals a blow to his abdomen and easily knocks him out. Incidentally, he was awarded the dress uniform he is wearing for taking top score on the previous year's enlistment exam.

Mikami Leila

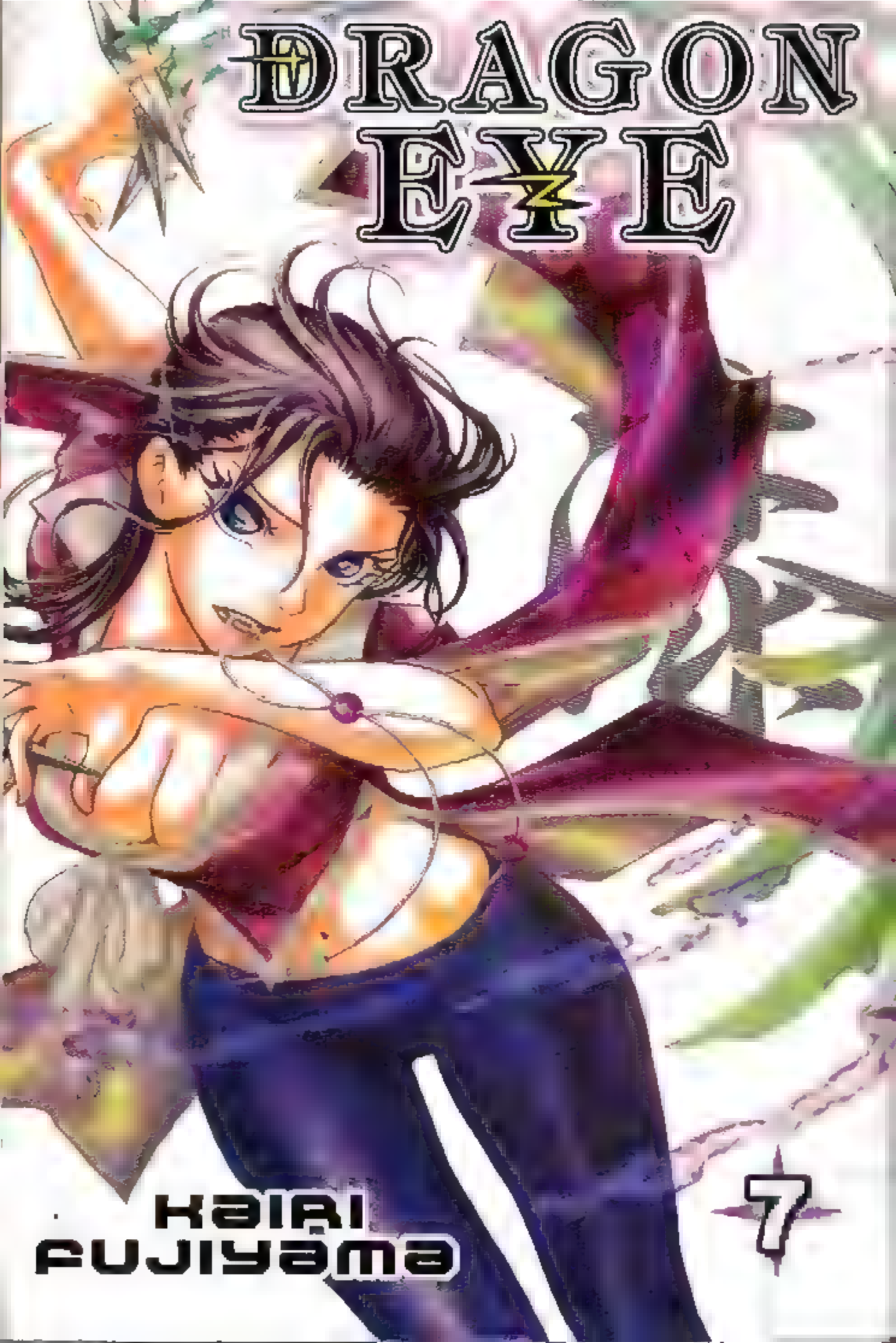
Easily won her first match of the preliminaries, then moves on against Rin Kyoko in the second round. Boldly attacks hitting vital points, but is unable to inflict damage and is thwarted by Rin's "Palmar Spell Defense" and defeated. Leila regards her Shimon School teacher and one of Mikumi's Three Heavenly Elders, Elder Vice-Director Shimon, as her mentor and father figure. He's looked after her since childhood.

VS

Rin Kyoko

[illegible] and Squad Six member in her match against Leila. She reveals a glimpse of her strength with powerful spells that stop and can even inflict damage on an opponent without touching them. She is also a former Squad Zero member, from one who knows all of the Elves the squad was disbanded, and seems to have a personal [illegible]

DRAGON EYE



KAIRI FUJIYAMA

7

= Dragon Eye =

Kairi Fujiyama

6 years ago
the Akuma Clan

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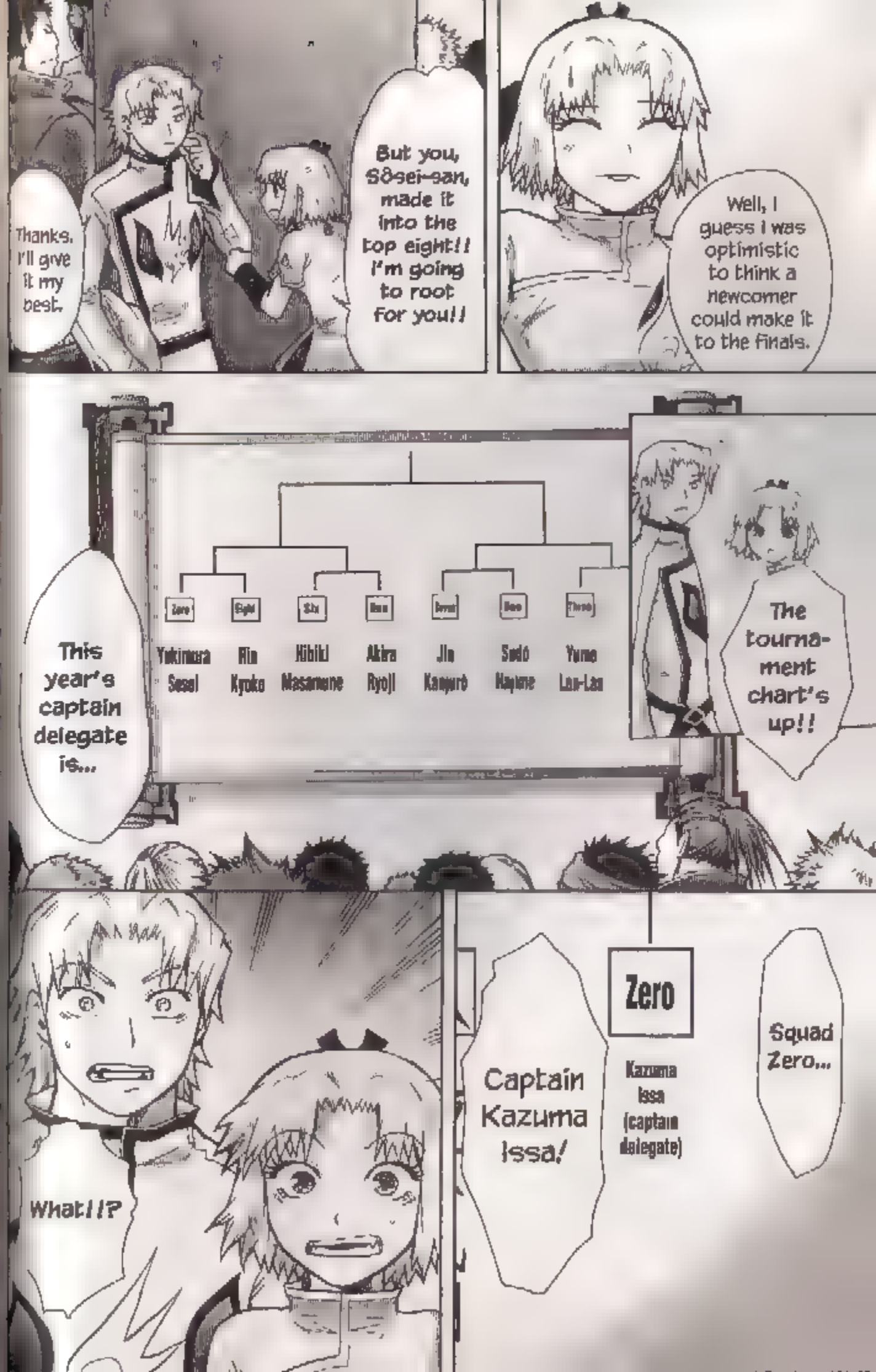
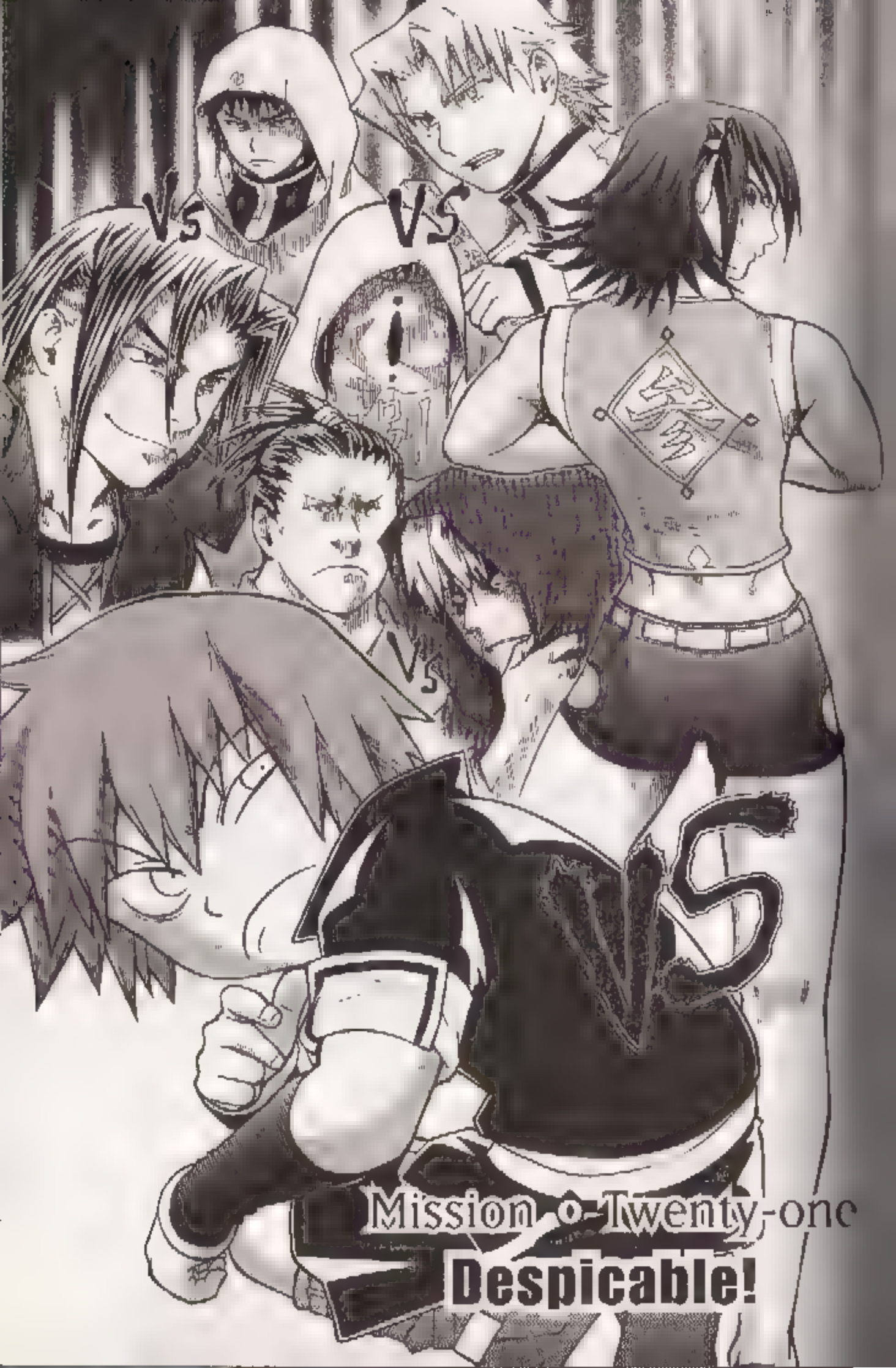
slap
slap
...mph!
Sigh.
Yeah, but...
Leila... I'm so sorry about that match.
Leila!
Sôsei-san, congratulations on advancing to the finals!
Oh!


Thanks. I'll give it my best.
But you, Sôsei-san, made it into the top eight!! I'm going to root for you!!
Well, I guess I was optimistic to think a newcomer could make it to the finals.
Yukimura Sosei
Rin Kyoko
Hibiki Masamune
Akira Ryoji
Jin Kanjuro
Saito Nagare
Yume Lan-Lan
This year's captain delegate is...
The tourna-ment chart's up!!
What!!?
Captain Kazuma Issa!
Zero
Kazuma Issa (captain delegate)
Squad Zero...



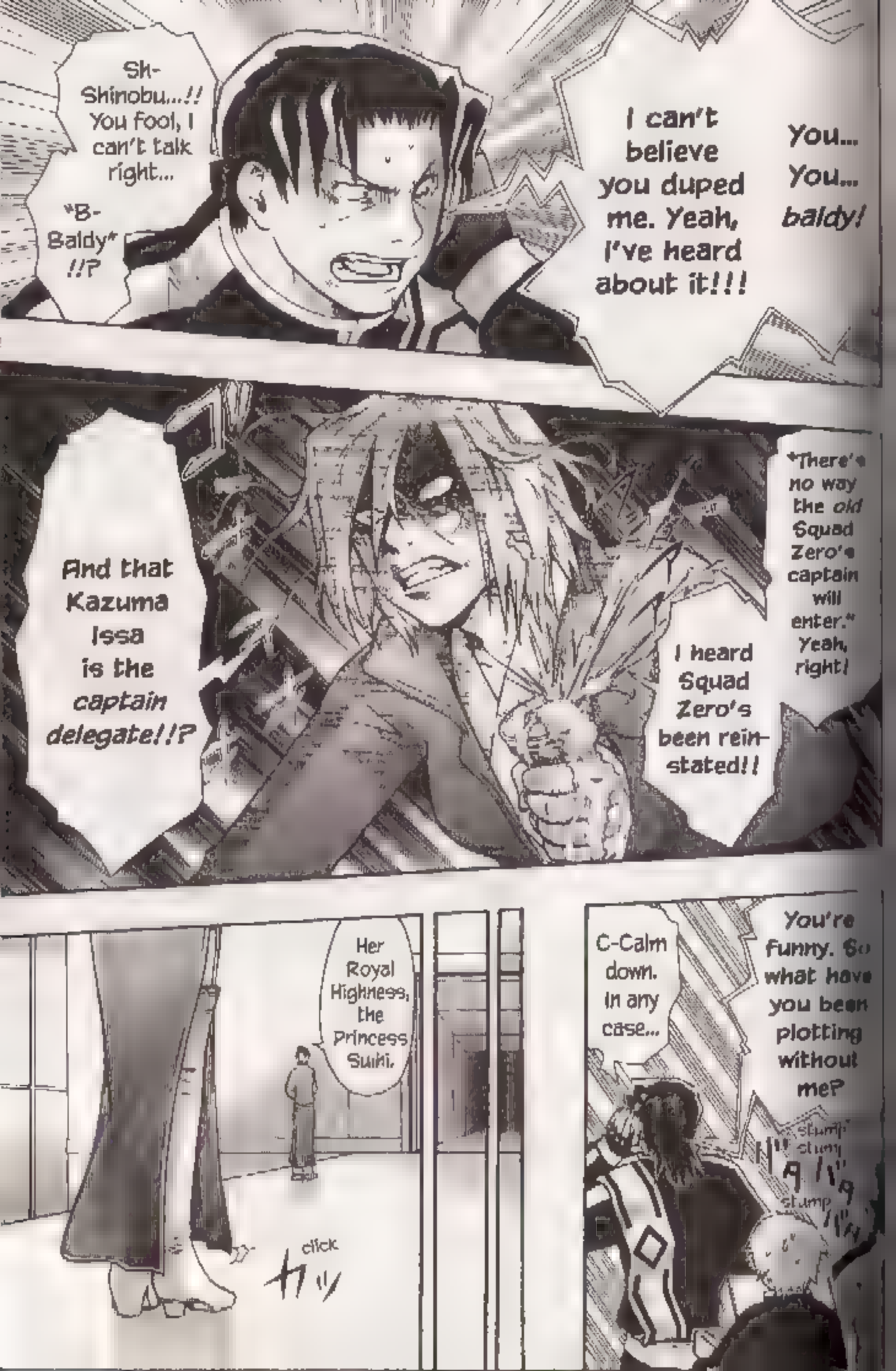
Mission 021
Despicable!

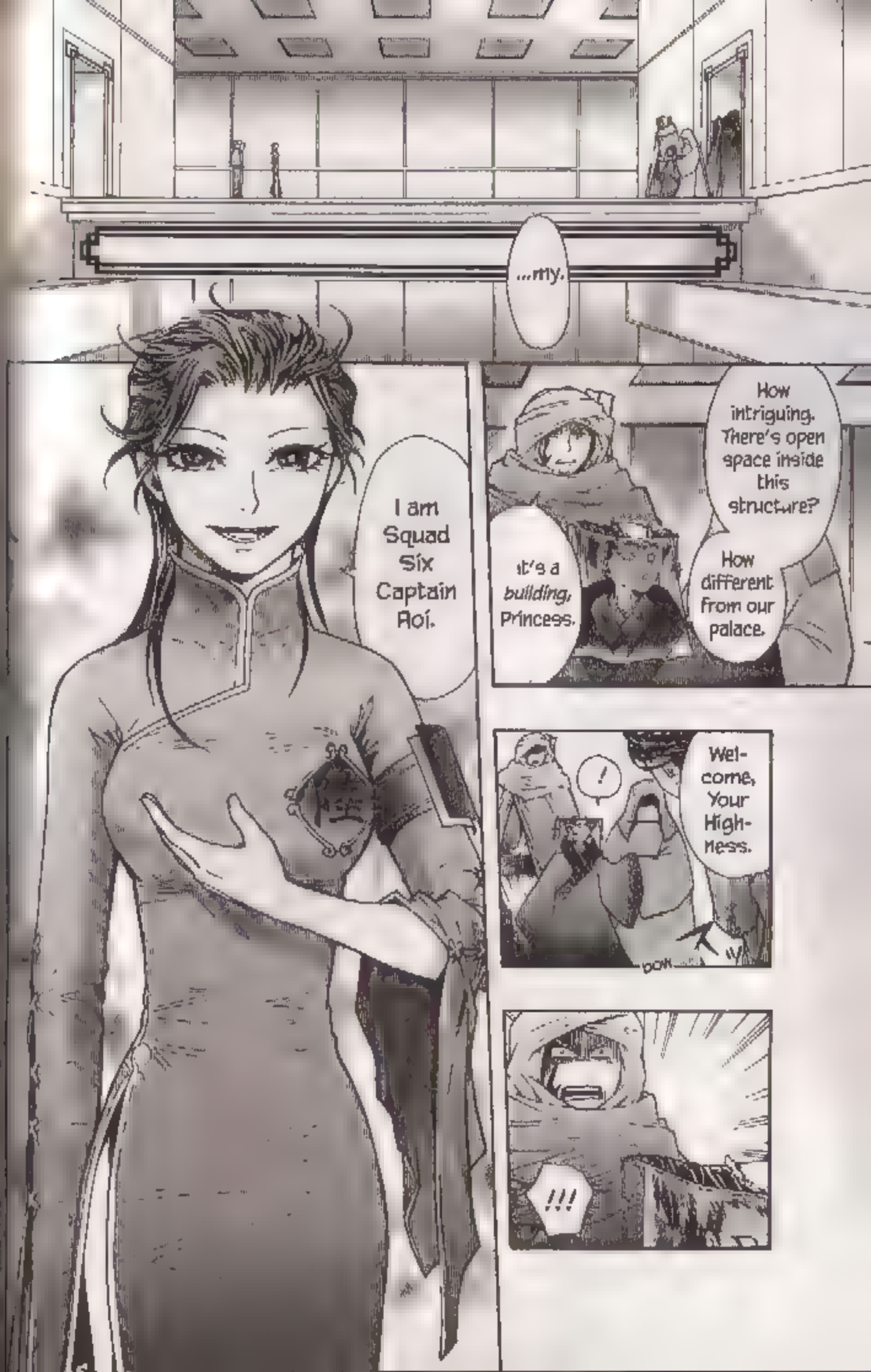
tread
tread
tread

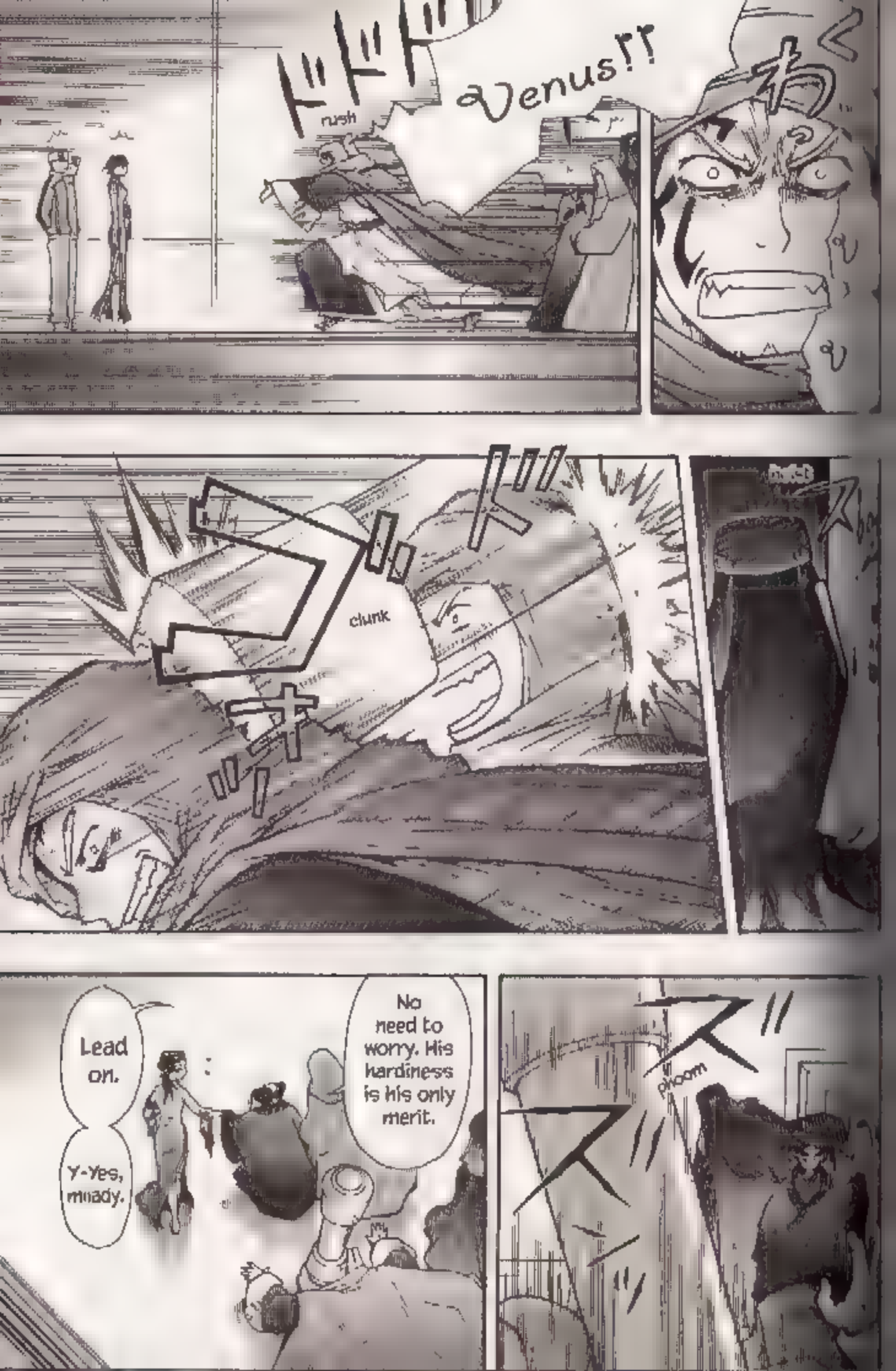
Unit 3 is about to start escorting our guests of honor to the arena.
Very well.
Unit 1 reports that the Lord Head Heavenly Elder will be arriving momentarily.
Yeah, I'm on my way.
Shup
Shup
Shup
Sakuraba-san, we have word from Unit 2 that the Heavenly Elders from the other three cities have arrived.
Good. And Unit 3?

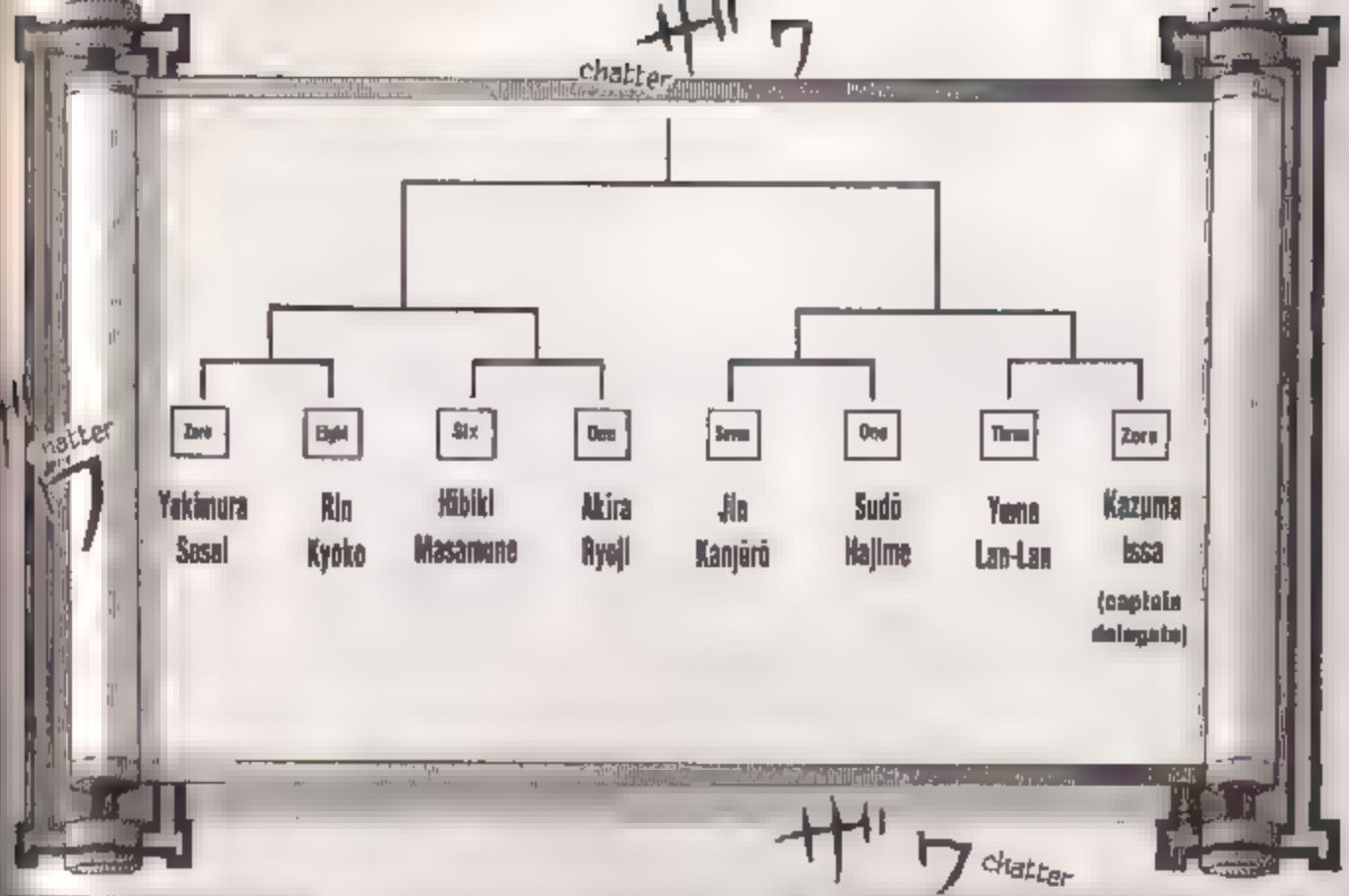
blare
How dare you, Sakuraba!!

click
Huh? What could be so...
Sakuraba-san, we have an urgent incoming message from Queen City...


Sh-Shinobu...!! You fool, I can't talk right...
"B-Baldy" !!?
I can't believe you duped me. Yeah, I've heard about it!!!
You... You... baldy!
And that Kazuma Issa is the captain delegate!!?
I heard Squad Zero's been reinstated!!
"There's no way the old Squad Zero's captain will enter." Yeah, right!
Her Royal Highness, the Princess Suihi.
click
C-Calm down. In any case...
You're funny. So what have you been plotting without me?
stump stump stump stump


...my.
I am Squad Six Captain Aoí.
How intriguing. There's open space inside this structure?
It's a *building*, Princess.
How different from our palace.
!
Wel-come, Your High-ness.
!!!


rush
Venus!!
clunk
Lead on.
Y-Yes, mlady.
No need to worry. His hardiness is his only merit.
Boom


Zero
Yakumaru Sosai
Eight
Rin Kyoko
Six
Hibiki Masamune
Dos
Akira Ryoji
Seven
Jin Kanjirō
One
Sudō Hajime
Three
Yuma Lan-Lan
Zero
Kazuma Issa
(captain delegate)

...

Ha ha!
I'll get to fight Hibiki in the first round!!
Hey, hey, look at that...

What's he like?
The captain delegate is the Squad Zero captain.
It's just as I had heard.

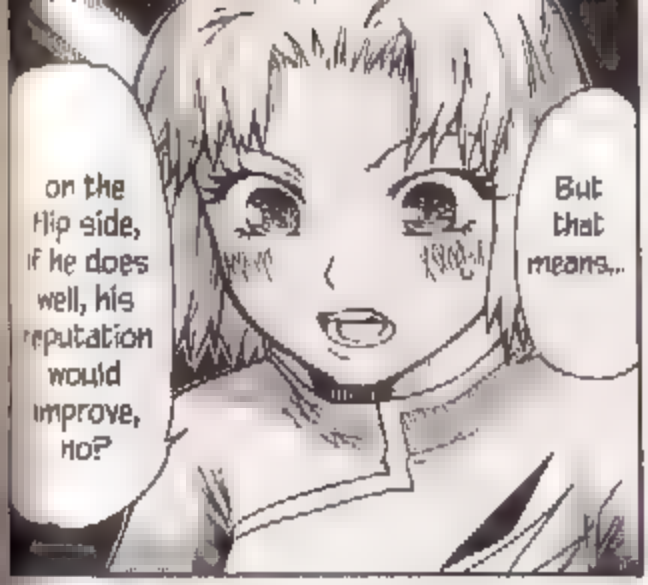
There they are!

pop
Chat-ter
Chat-ter
Chat-ter

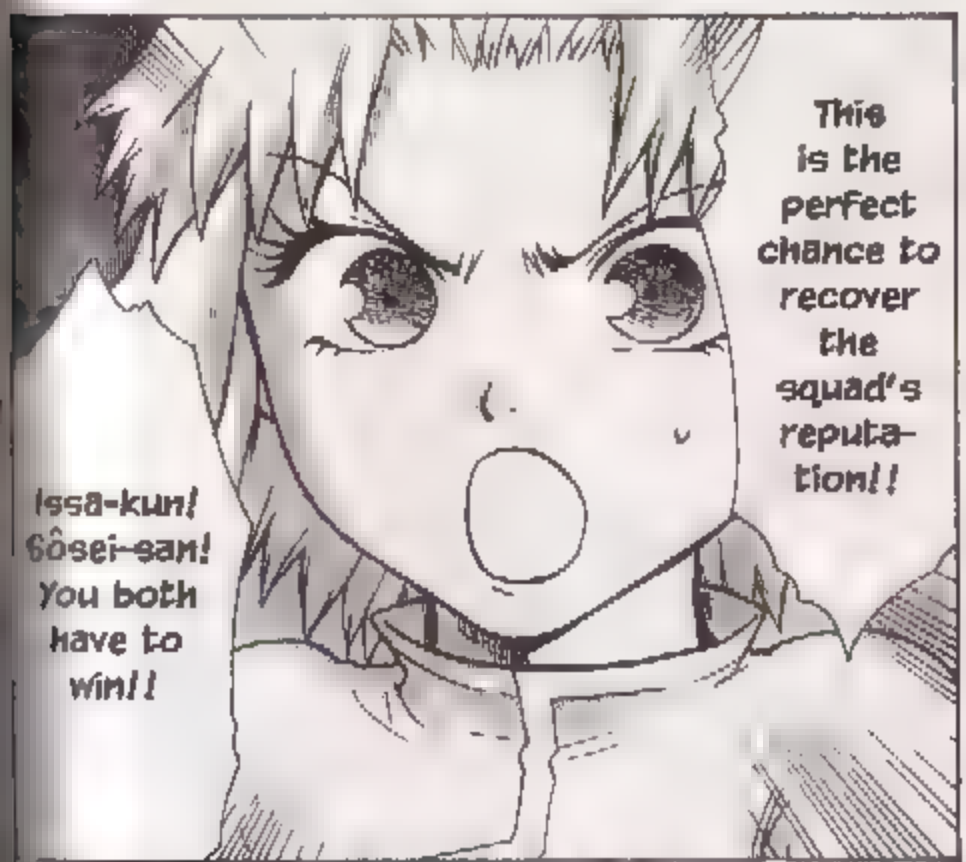
!!?
Ulp
Heya...!
Not just surprised!! Why didn't you tell us!?
No... just a little surprised.
But I'm not supposed to tell.
Wait, you're mad about that?
Well... they didn't really ask me...
so about two weeks?
H, Huh? What's the matter?
You...
How long have you been hiding that you were the delegate?
Together ...?
Eh?
I mean,
If I had known, we could have planned together!!
I thought that since you were captain, you weren't eligible!!

Sorry, Leila.
Don't think so.
Why not!?
go go
Squad Zero!?
We could have cheered each other on, strategized, etc.!!
Master Shimon's disappointed.
It's OK... I did the best I could.
I've got to get stronger first, and then try again.
But either way, sorry about your match.
Nice mark!
...and you, you're in the finals?
Next year? That's far away.
Heh heh, I'm looking forward to next year, then.

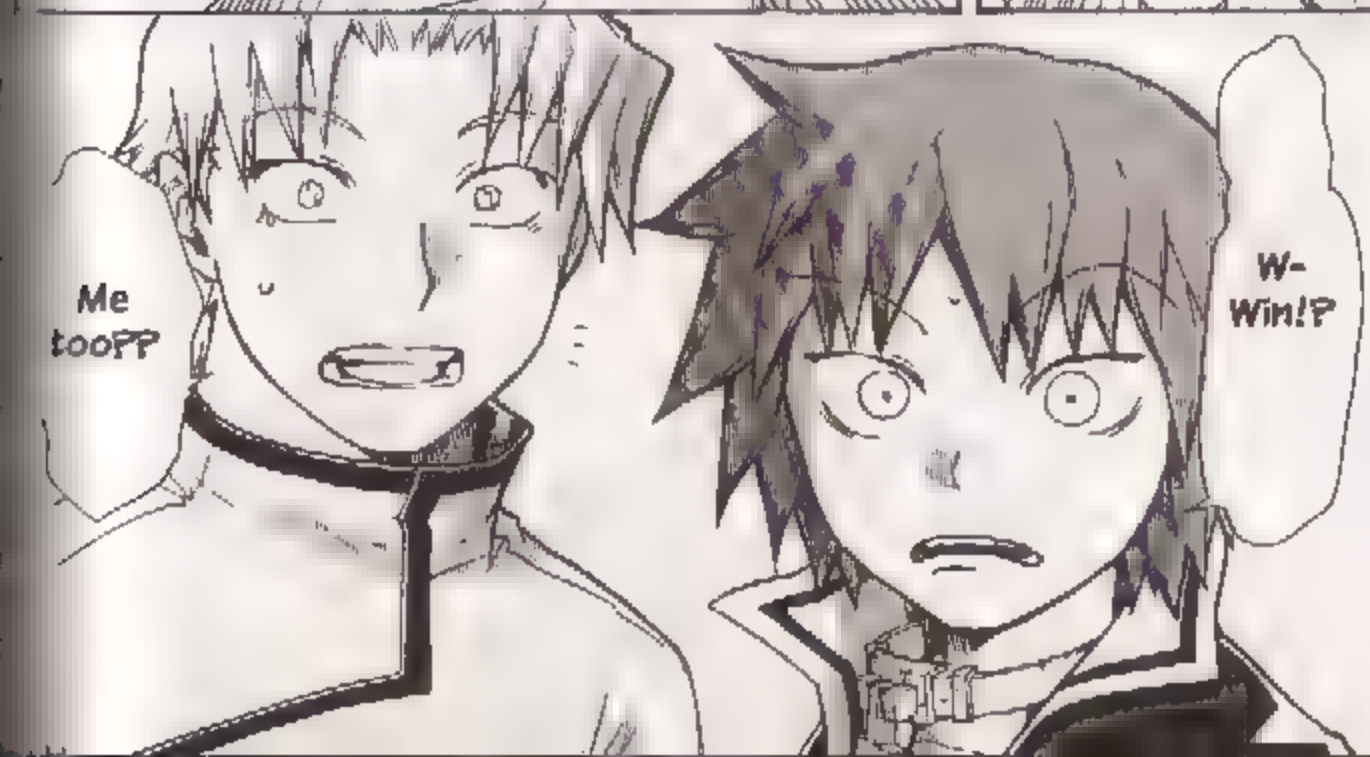
?
But shouldn't you be worrying about your own hide?
If I had known you were going to participate, I wouldn't have entered.
Pretty brilliant, to qualify for the finals in only your second year!
From what I'm hearing, some real VIPs have been invited to come today.
Including the head of Central...
This past month you've had a lot of problems, whether it was being relieved of your captainship or the squad being disbanded again
This time, you won't get away scot-free.
If some disgrace befalls you, it'll no longer be just your problem.
The heart of Cen tral


But that means...
On the flip side, if he does well, his reputation would improve, no?

But... don't scare him.
That's right! It's not 100% certain that I'm going to mess up.
That's the thing about you that makes me more worried!


This is the perfect chance to recover the squad's reputation!!
Issa-kun! Gôsei-san! You both have to win!!

Then that's it!!
Well... I guess.

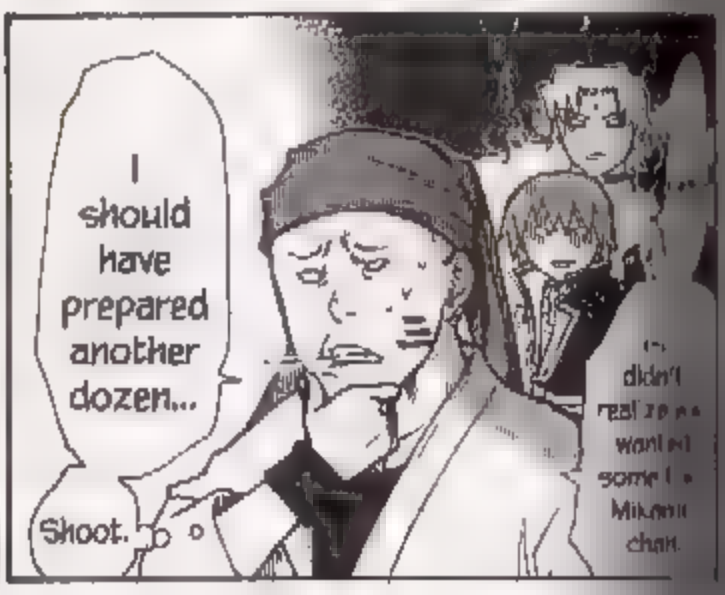

Me tooPP
W-Win!?

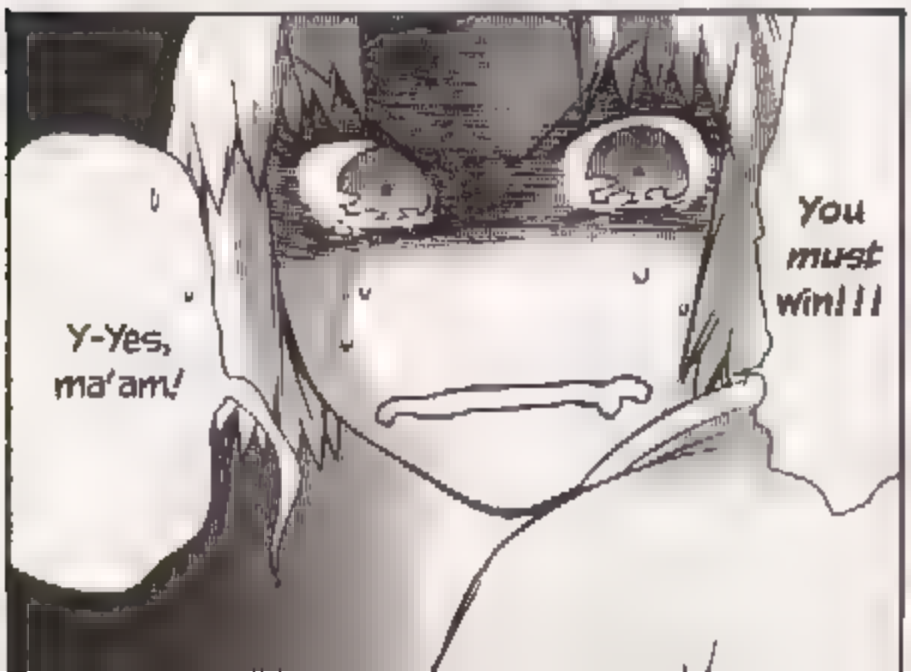
slide
Oh!
There you are, Kazuma-kun!!
I'm glad I caught you! I have to head out on a mission, but I really wanted to tell you in person!
Sorry I won't be there, but good luck!!
Oh, Kajiyama-san...
...thanks.
Oh, and...
rummage
rummage
tadada
I also wanted to deliver this to you!!
Ta-daa! The Anadoren, a super-drink that will make you absolutely Formidable!!!
増大

You know, when I heard you were going to participate in the tournament, I started experimenting right away... I wanted you to drink this...
...and pow!, win it all, you know?
Just let me take your pulse afterwards, OK?
Drugs...?
...poison?
Hey, I think he needs a little more confidence, so give it to him!
Really?
Hey!
...aah, but I'm OK, really...
Whoa!!
zlurp
zlurp
zlurp
krik
krik
thunk
!!?
Glint
Huh?
snatch

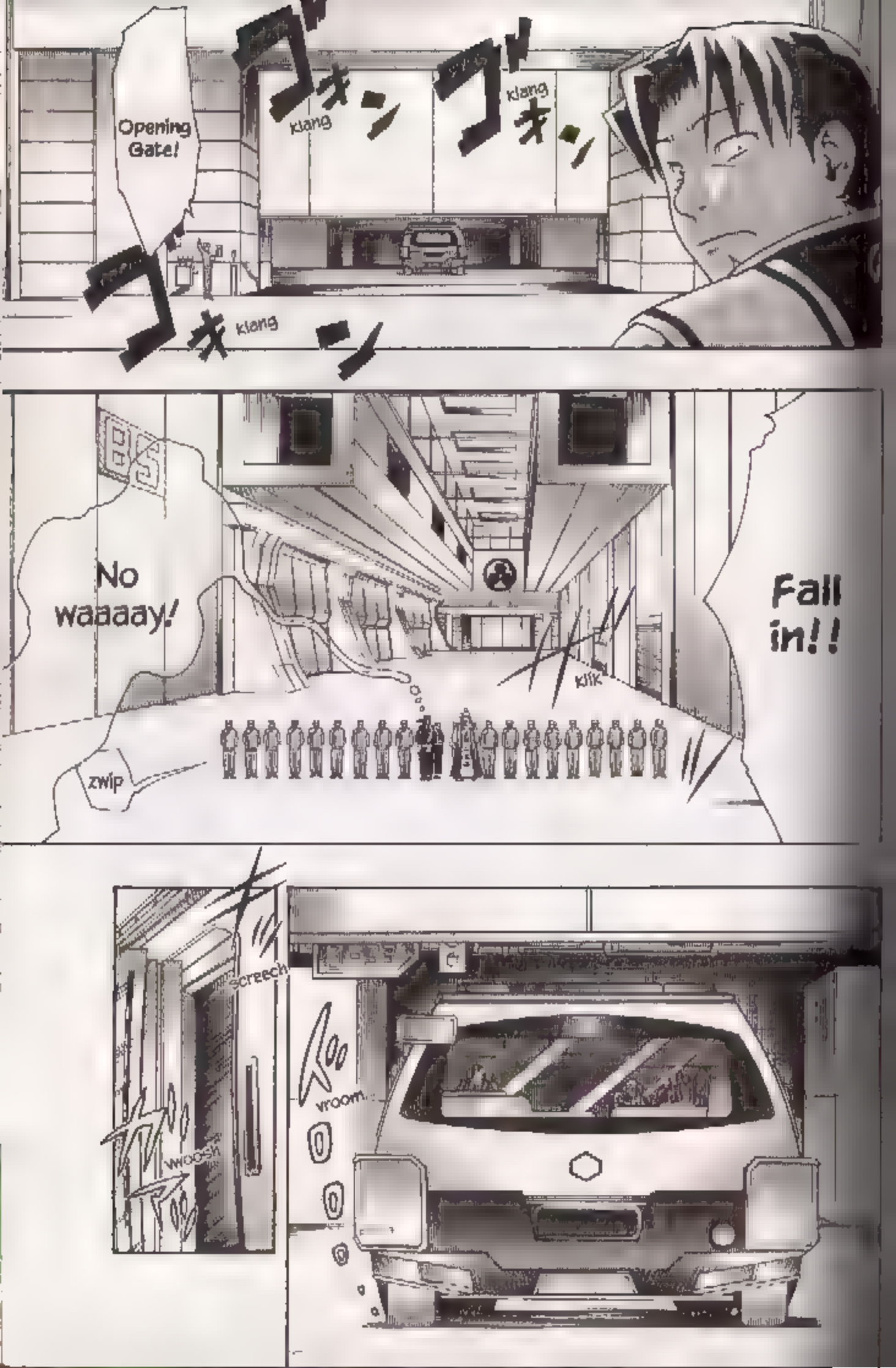
gloom
Now I'll have enough energy to cheer everyone on!
Phew-whee.
Thank you very much, Kajiyama-san.
Ulp...

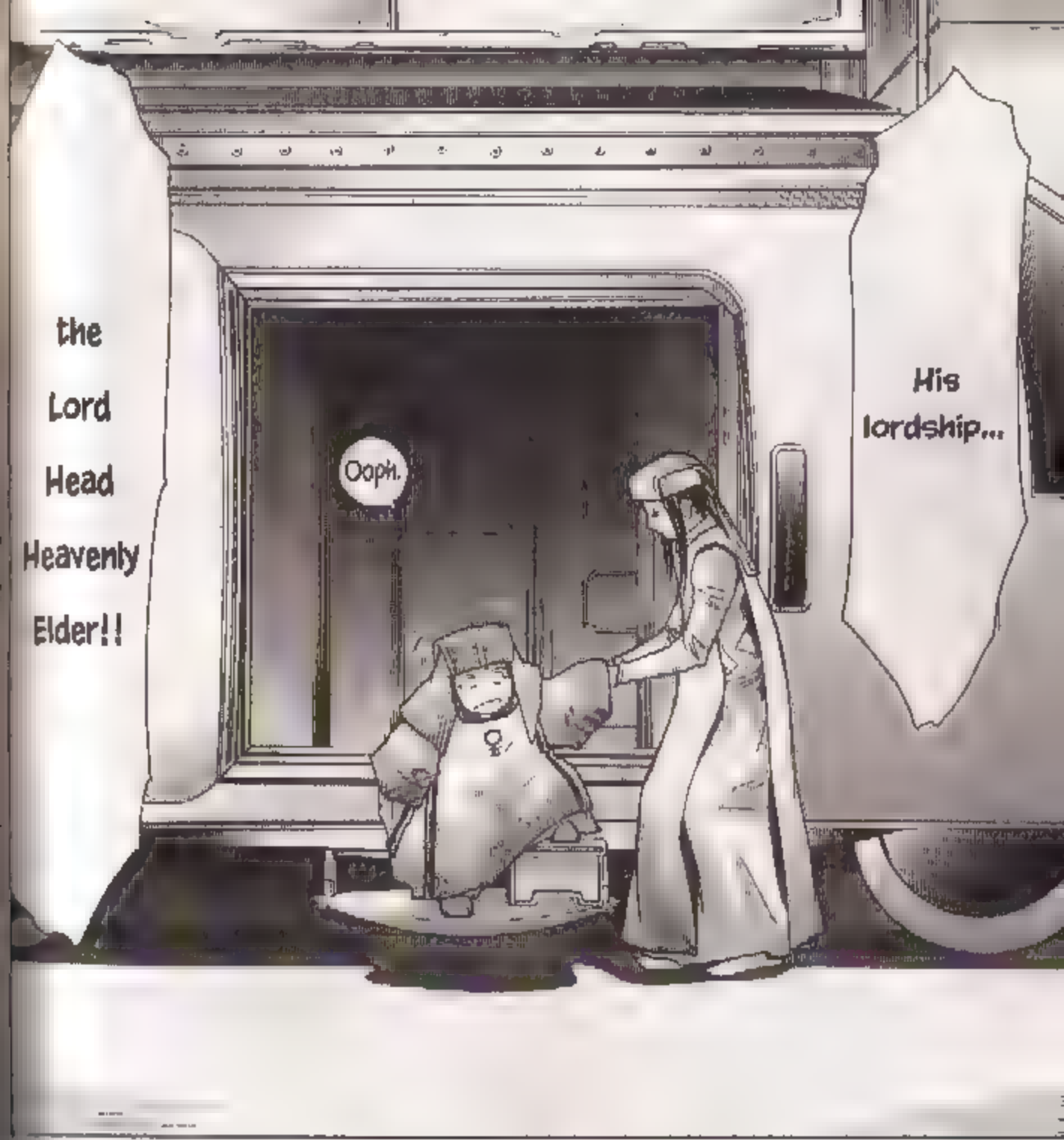
Now, good luck on your mission!
All right, but Mikami-chan, let me measure your pulse later, OK?

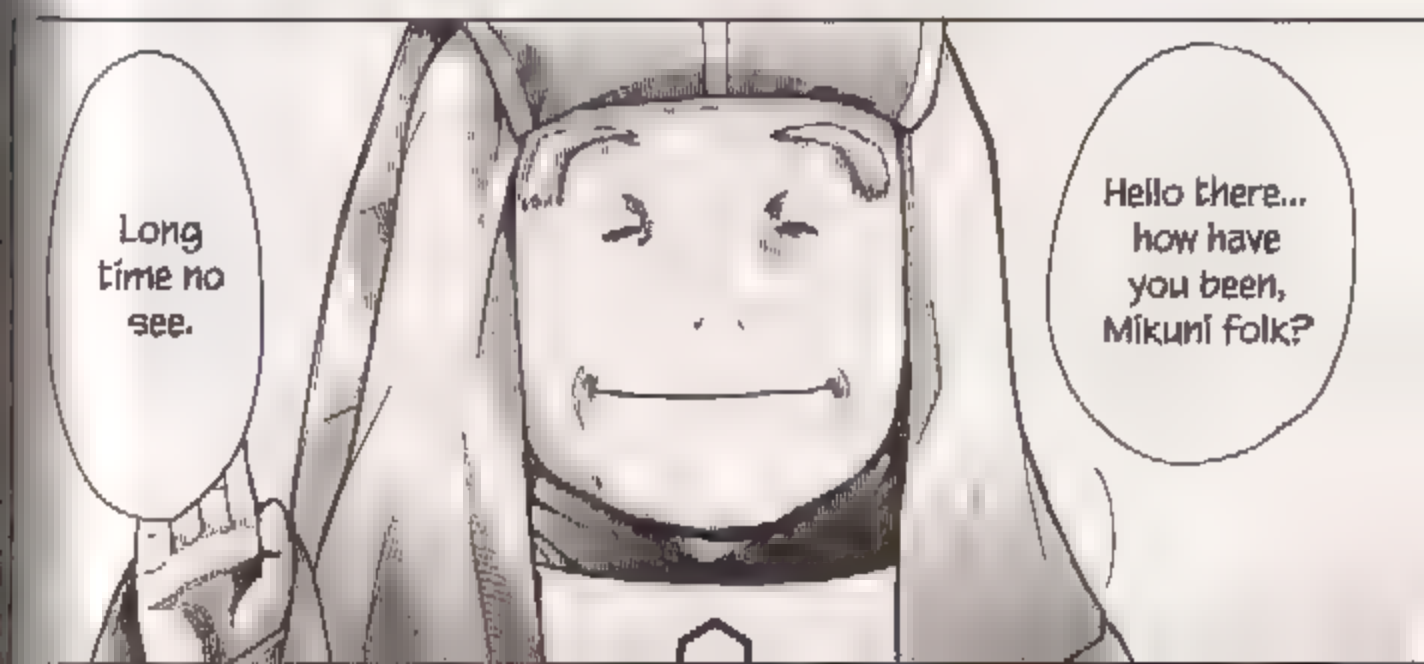

I should have prepared another dozen...
Shoot.


Y-Yes, ma'am!
You must win!!!

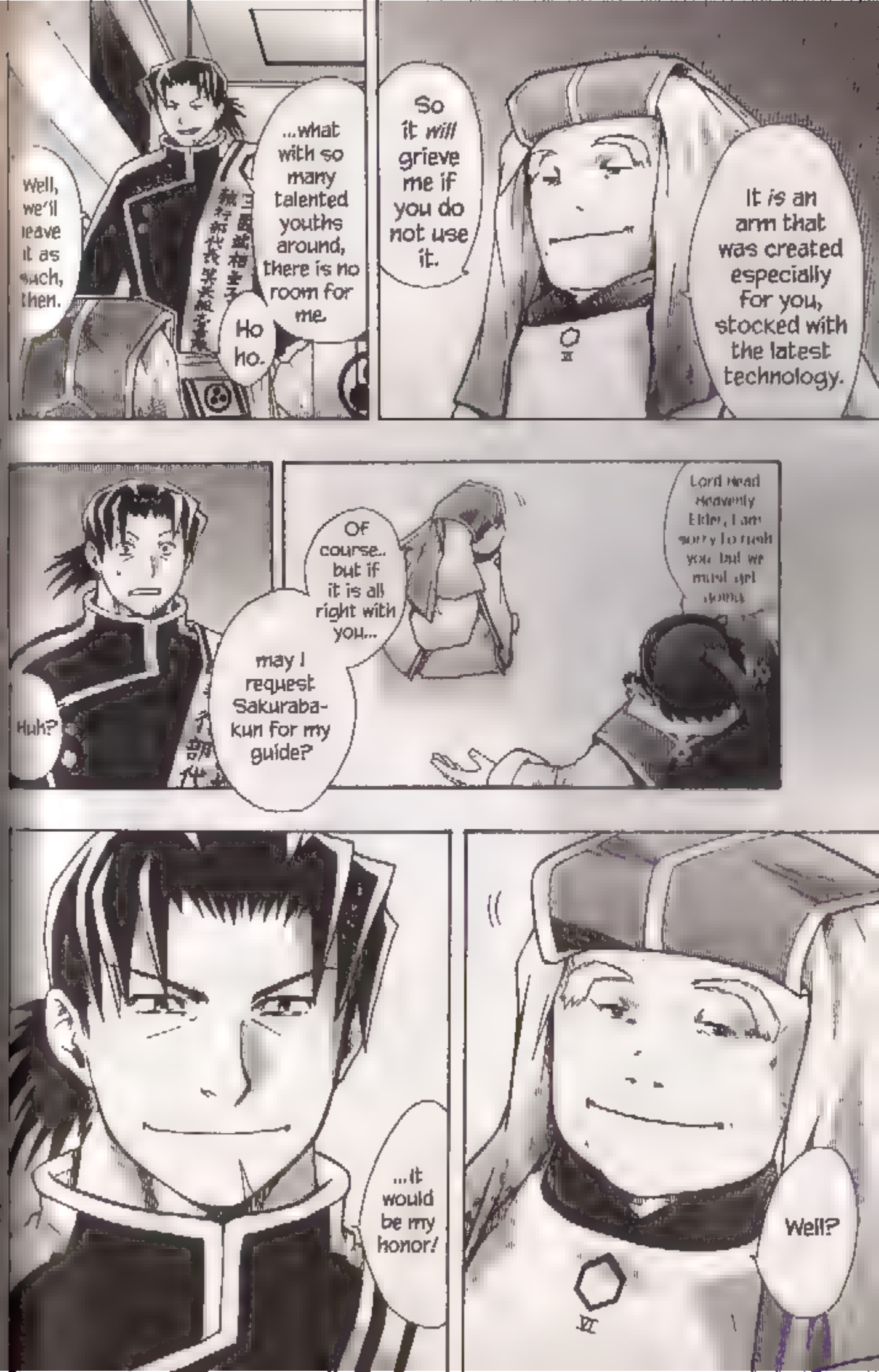
Blah blah
I told you, we'll discuss it later!!
stomp
stomp
shup
shup
Center Hall B5
Tube Gate Floor
Aah, hurry, he's about to arrive.
Elder Vice-Director, sorry I'm late.
Gah, shut up!
zwip
Don't let any further messages through.
Yes, sir.
I-It's from Hitomi-san. First message in three months...
S-Sakuraba-san.
grimace
I am incom-municado from this moment on!!
No!

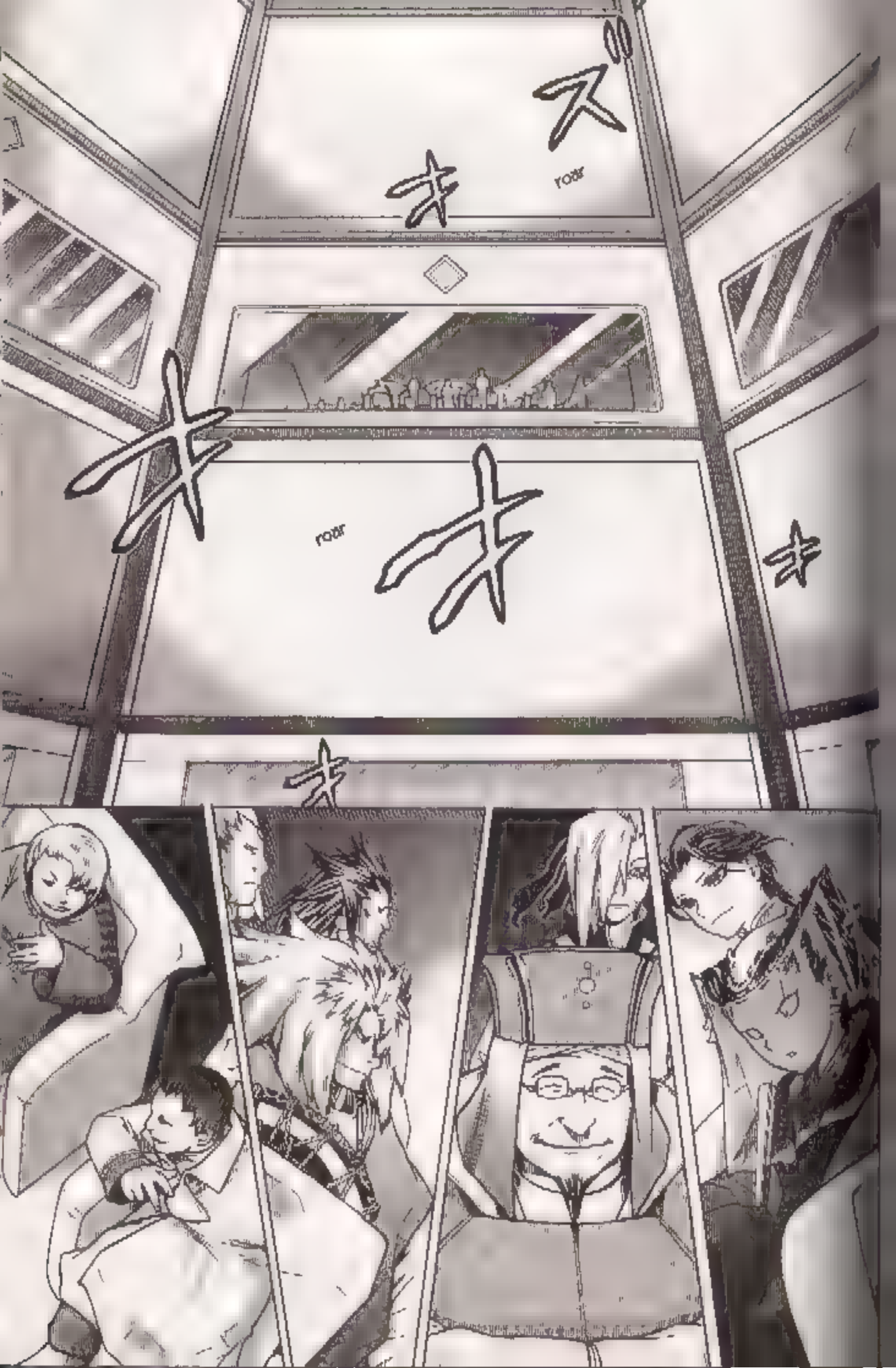

Opening Gate!
klang
klang
klang
No waaaay!
Fall in!!
klik
zwip
screech
whoosh
vroom

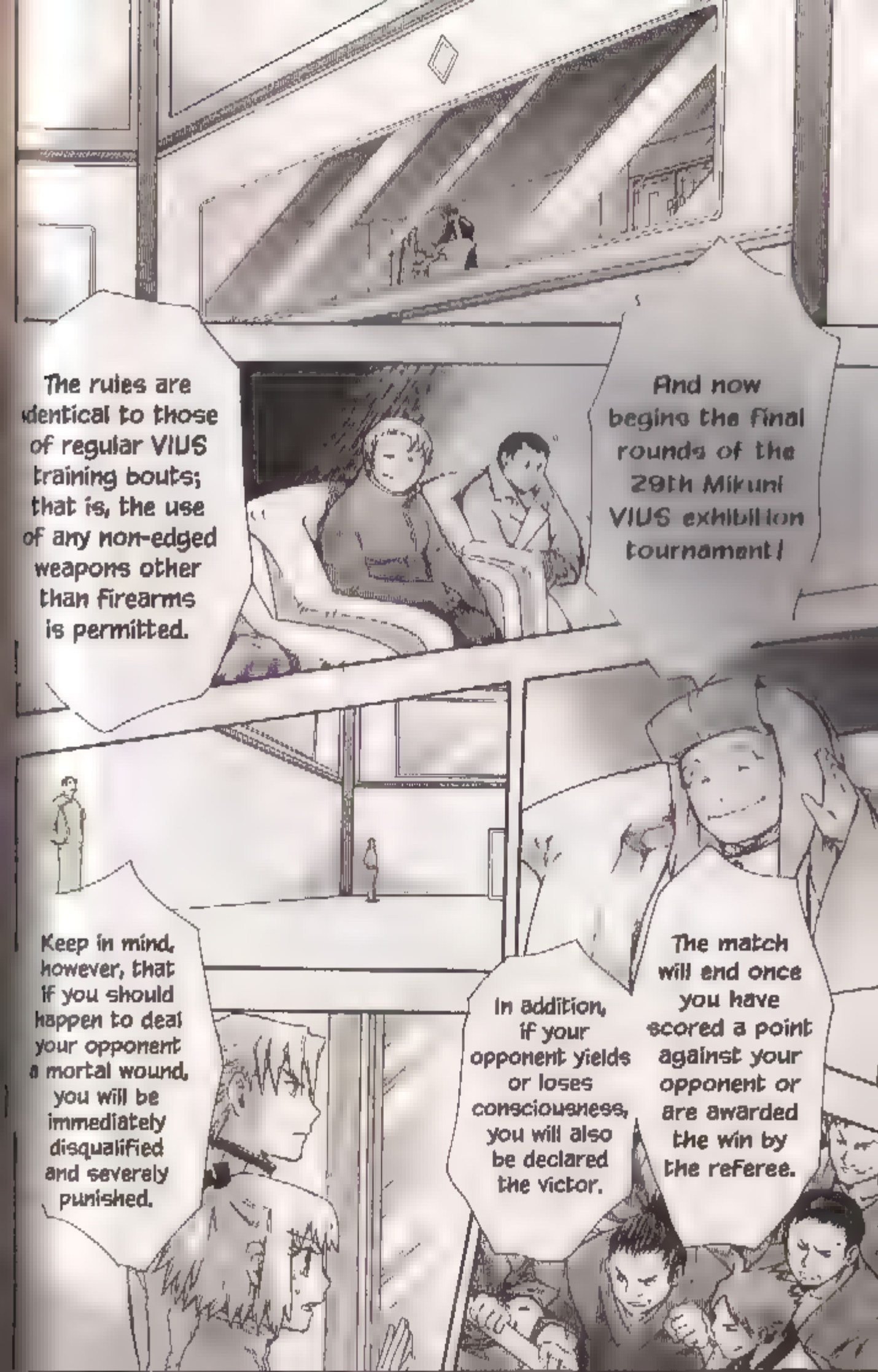

the Lord Head Heavenly Elder!!
Ooph.
His lordship...

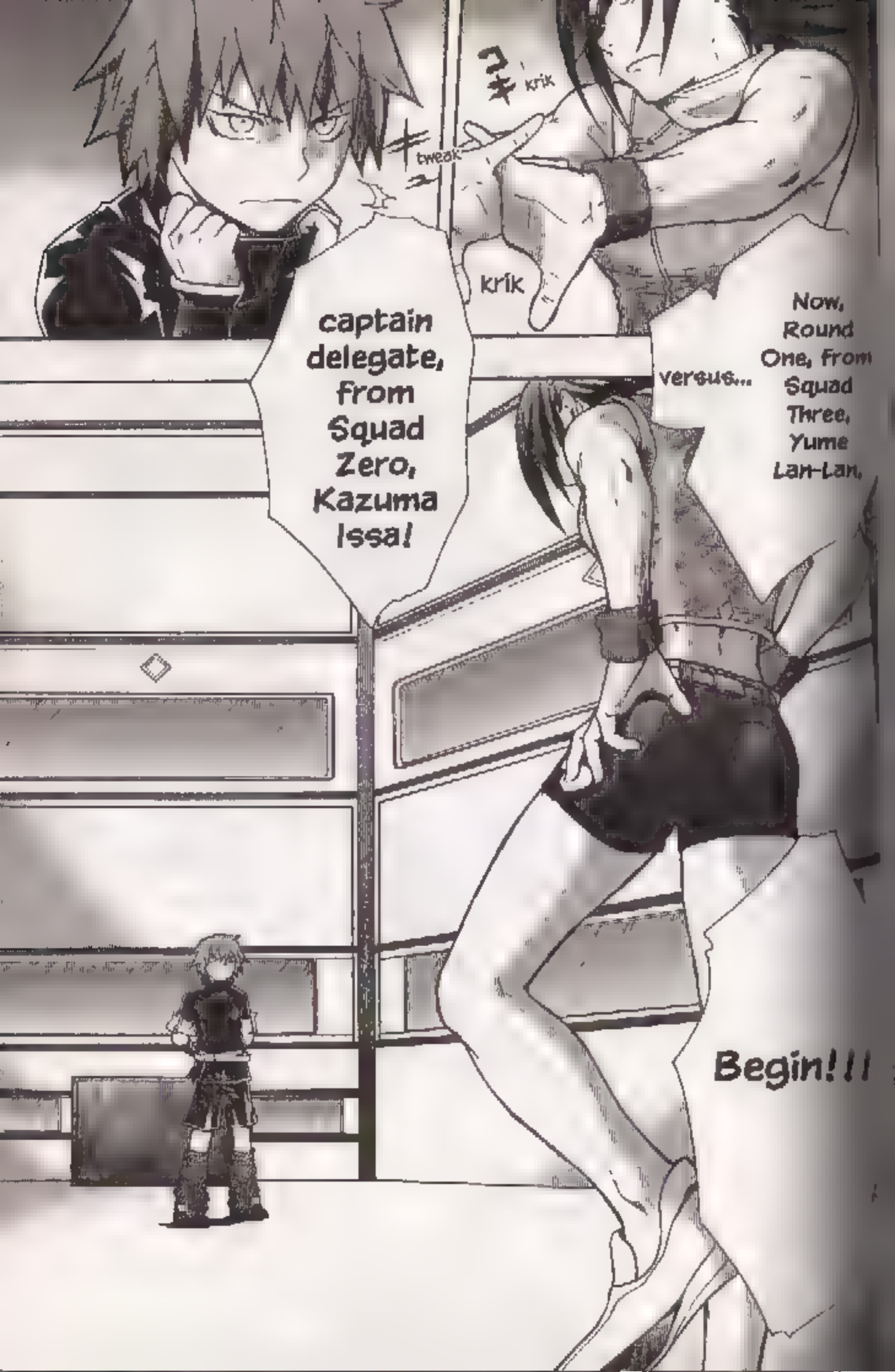

Long time no see.
Hello there... how have you been, Mikuni folk?

twitch
twitch
Lord Head Heavenly Elder, long time no see.
Aah, Sakuraba-kun.
So glad to see you well.
Yes, sir! For as long as I can still outpace the young ones.
Ha ha.
You look well Lord Head Heavenly Elder
I hear you're still on active duty?
Aah, Kaburazaka-kun, as hale as always
The exhibition tournament twelve years ago... plus one time in Central's Medical Ward two years later.
...ho ho That hot blooded young squad member has grown up into a fine man
Twelve years it's been, no?
!
I hear you haven't returned to field-work?
Good, thank you. I almost feel it's wasted on me.
How's your arm?
Aah, that's right! So it's been since then


Well, we'll leave it as such, then.
Ho ho.
...what with so many talented youths around, there is no room for me.
So it will grieve me if you do not use it.
It is an arm that was created especially for you, stocked with the latest technology.
Huh?
may I request Sakuraba-kun for my guide?
Of course.. but if it is all right with you...
Lord Head Heavenly Elder, I am sorry to rush you but we must get going
...it would be my honor!
Well?


roar
roar


The rules are identical to those of regular VIUS training bouts; that is, the use of any non-edged weapons other than firearms is permitted.
And now begins the final rounds of the 29th Mikuni VIUS exhibition tournament!
Keep in mind, however, that if you should happen to deal your opponent a mortal wound, you will be immediately disqualified and severely punished.
In addition, if your opponent yields or loses consciousness, you will also be declared the victor.
The match will end once you have scored a point against your opponent or are awarded the win by the referee.


krik
tweak
krik
captain delegate, from Squad Zero, Kazuma Issa!
versus...
Now, Round One, from Squad Three, Yume Lan-Lan.
Begin!!!

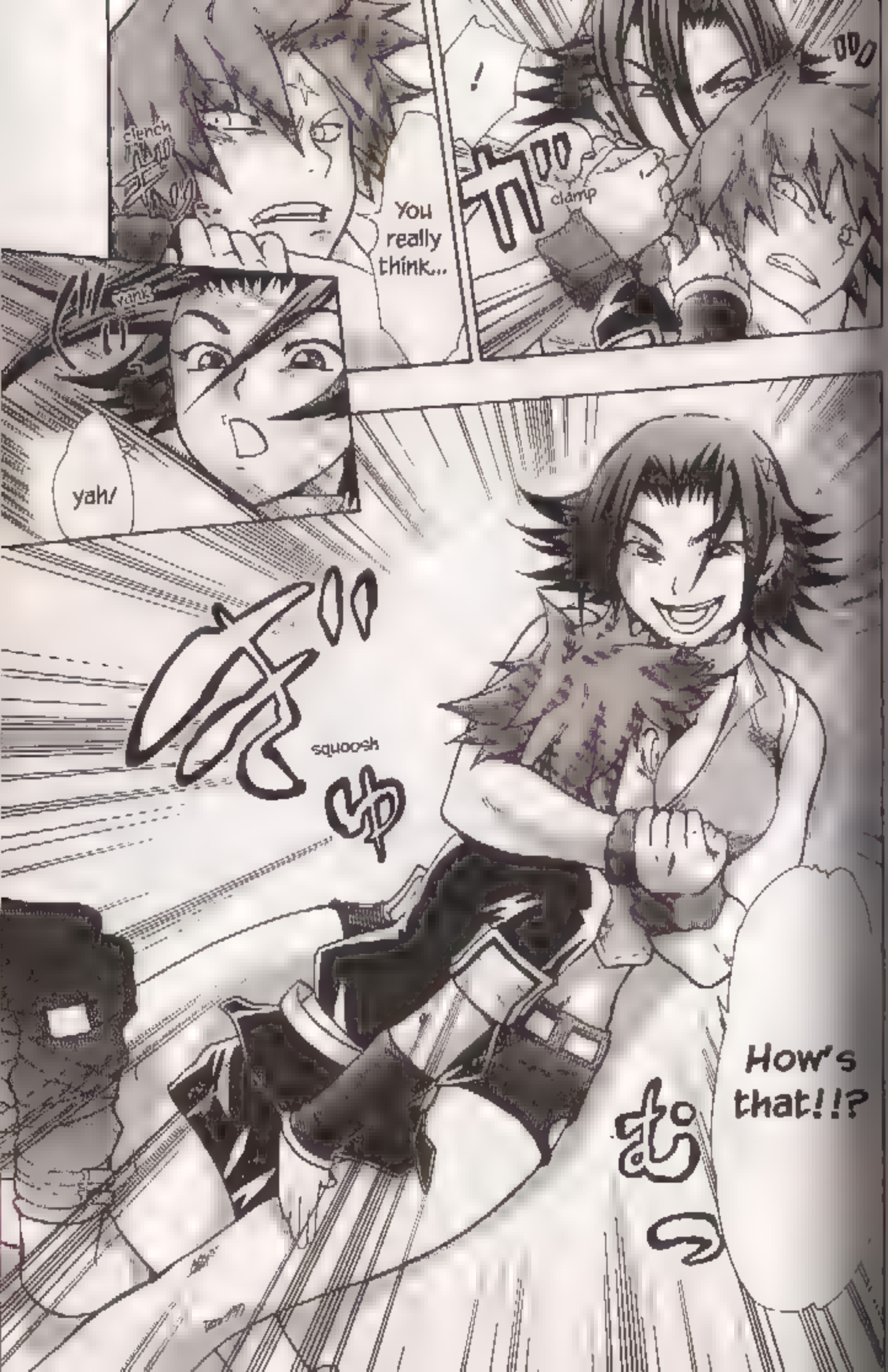
Hiya, Captain!
How you been?
What a shocker.
...I can't believe there are *two* former Squad Zero members in the finals.

But you see, I have my reasons today.
You're right.
And since when were you the type to participate in these things?
I see...
Even though you're a captain.. I want you to lose.
Just kidding.
Let's see what he's made of.
Yes. He is the captain of the newly reinstated Squad Zero.
So that's Kazuma-kun, eh.
...Is he a child?

Contestants, no chit-chat!
Huh? What "you know what"?
I wouldn't mind letting you do the "you know what" you used to bug me about.
fzz
Hey, Captain, if you'll throw this match for me...
!?
whoopie
I'll read to you while you rest your head on my boobs ♡
...What did she just say?
Hey, hey, is she serious?
snigger
snigger
snigger

mutter
mutter
Aah, the young ones are such a problem. They just don't understand etiquette.
Ha ha.
But of course, this is where the squad captain...
Contestants! Start your match!
Issa-kun!!?
Heyyy!
I feel that this is the true purpose of these matches.
shows, by example, proper VIUS form and decorum.
You're mocking me!!
Feh, Fine! I'll just have to win by Force!!
What!?
crouch

dash
thwap
thwap
thwap
crouch
whirl
whap
whoosh


clench
You really think...
clamp
yank
yah!
squoosh
How's that!!?

M-m-mph...
Yield!!
boing
Hey, hey.
guffaw
You all right?
grind
grind
Y- Yes... sir.
That... is the captain delegate?
Aieeee!!
molda
molde
Ay!
Oh!
blaaaze

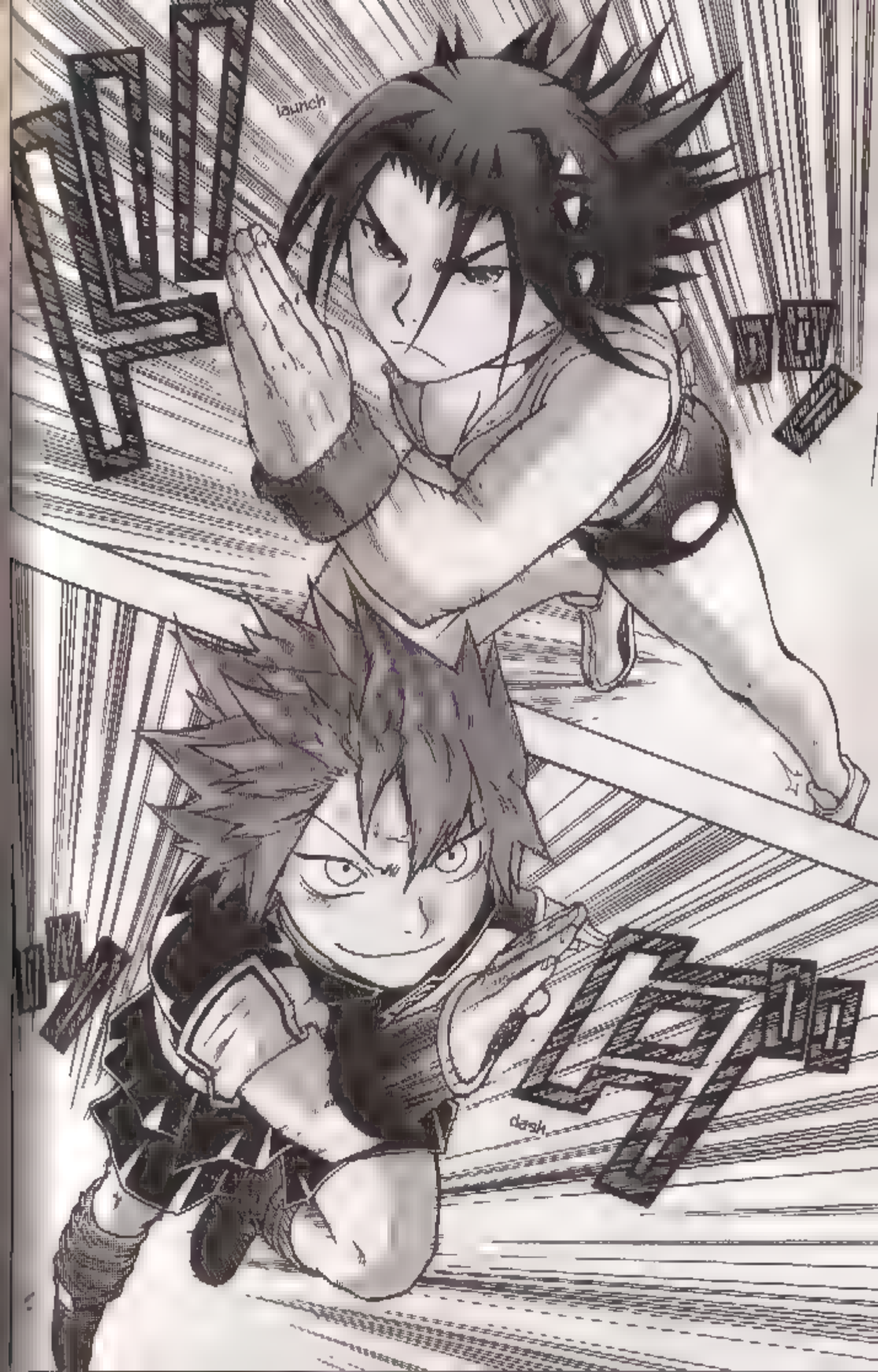
Ha ha ha ha.
How dare you!
What!?
F-Fool! I ain't yielding! Besides, your boobs are rock hard!!
I bet they're all muscle!!
ha-ha ha ha ha
Buffaw
Don't shift, just keep listening.
whisper whisper
...Captain.
Darn it At this rate...
grind
grind
!?
This whole thing is a setup.
You mustn't stay in the tournament. Just surrender quietly, OK?

Hey, hey!
boof
What are you talking about?
boof
Just recently, I came across certain information...
that a trap has been set in this tournament to force you out of Mikuni.
I couldn't get more specific details... but if something happens in such a public forum, a simple apology isn't going to suffice.
That's why I came to stop you. I was lucky to draw you in the first round.
If you pull out now, you could say you withdrew out of courtesy to a woman. It wouldn't be held against you that much.
...why are you doing this...?
muffle
...I kinda owe you one.
I mean, when the old Squad Zero was disbanded...
none of us stood up for you...
That's all!

!
slip
...Huh
leap
krik..
コキ..
I came here today prepared to fight real battles.
So I can't grant you your wish.
Well... now that I know, even more reason I can't lose or give up.

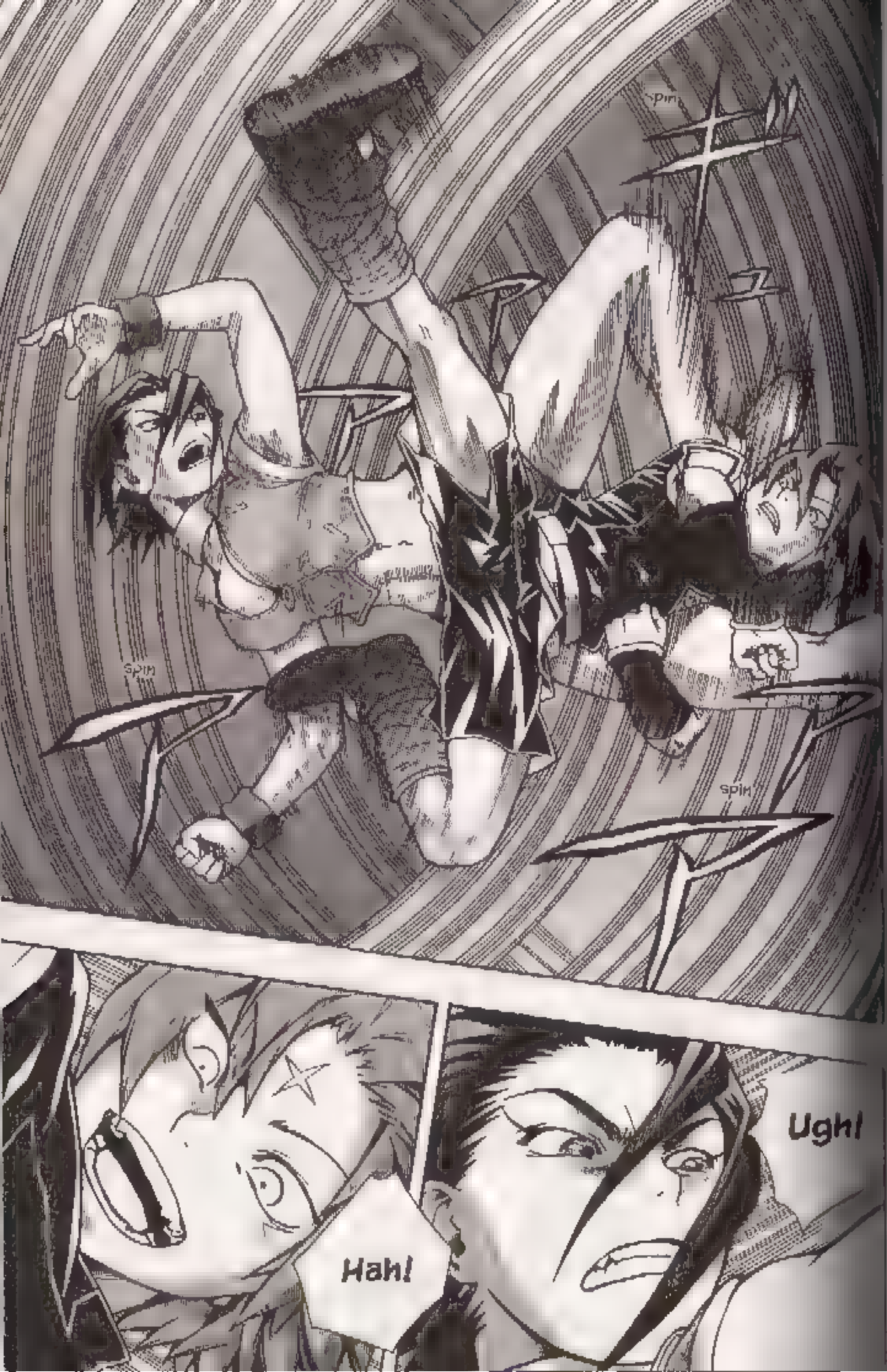
I want to give you a true fight, too.
That's why.
Even though I worked so hard to get this far and tell you?
What!?
You're still the same.
You haven't changed at all, have you, Captain.
...
Hey! What's up with the chit-chat!
C'mon, do your job, Ref!
Sigh...
Heh heh
They tell me that a lot.

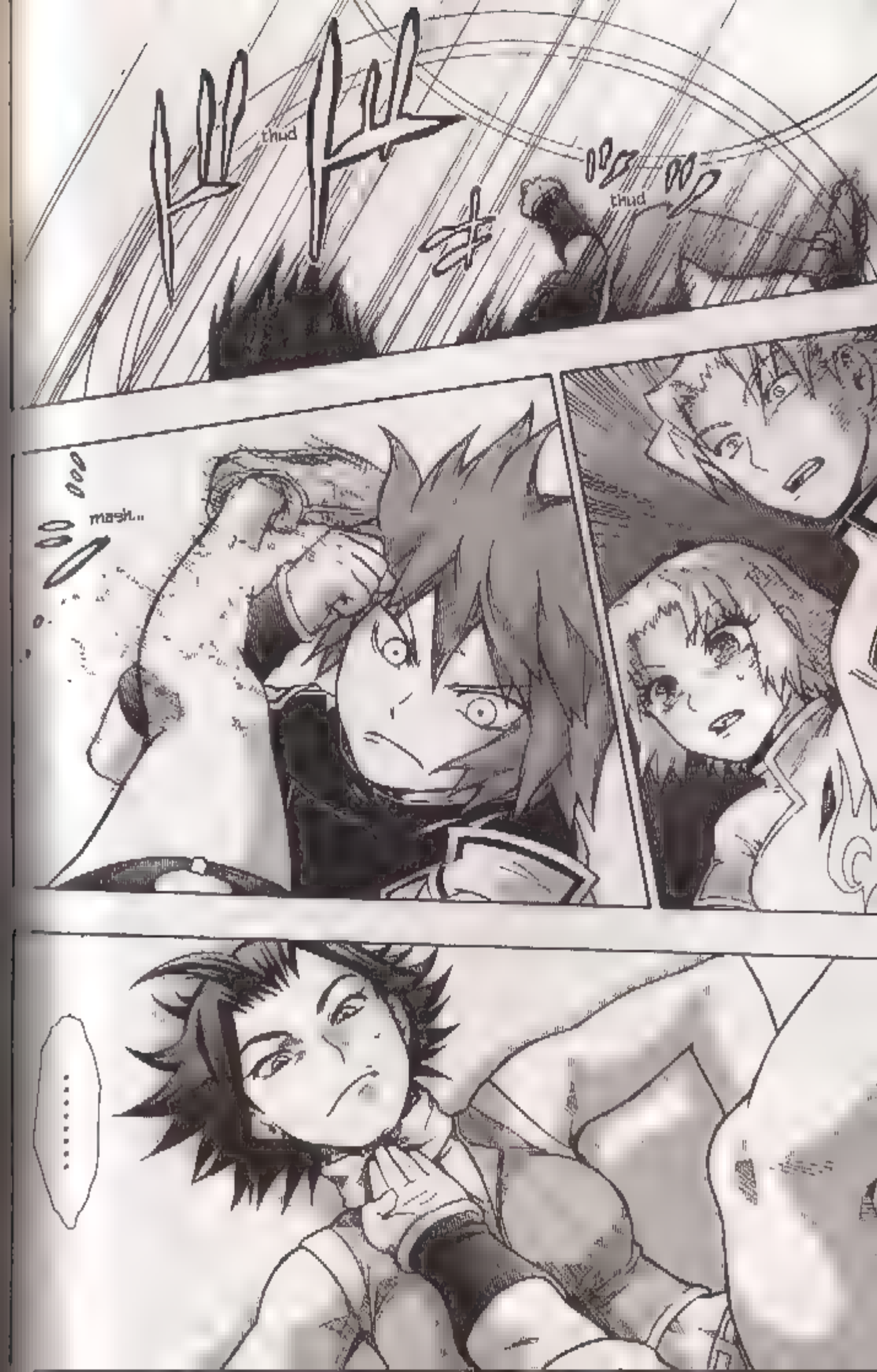
Well then,
I won't hold back!
crouch
Please!
thup

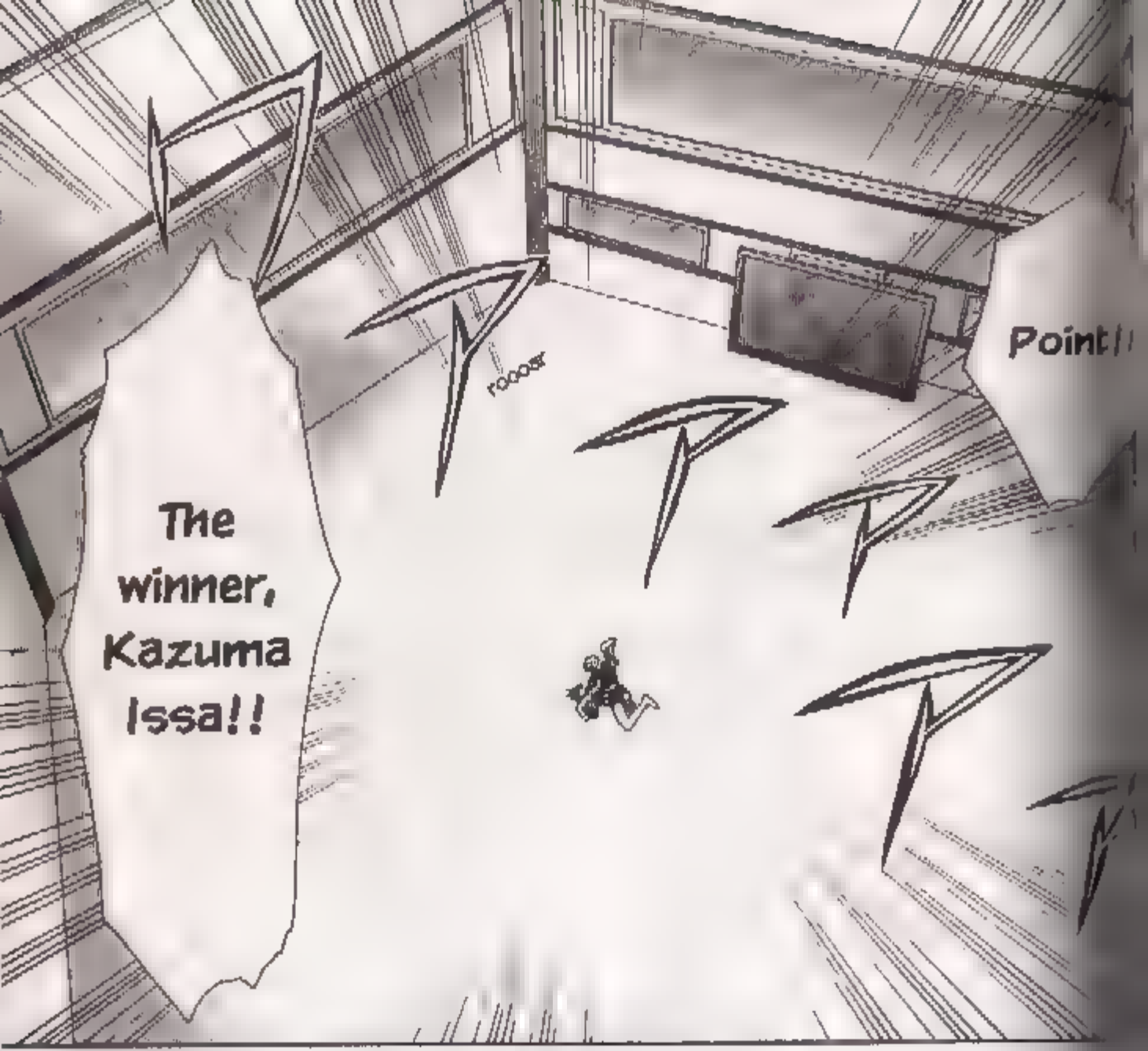

launch
dash

whoosh
Whoa!!
!!

drag
!
Mm
whoosh


Spin
Spin
Spin
Hah!
Ugh!

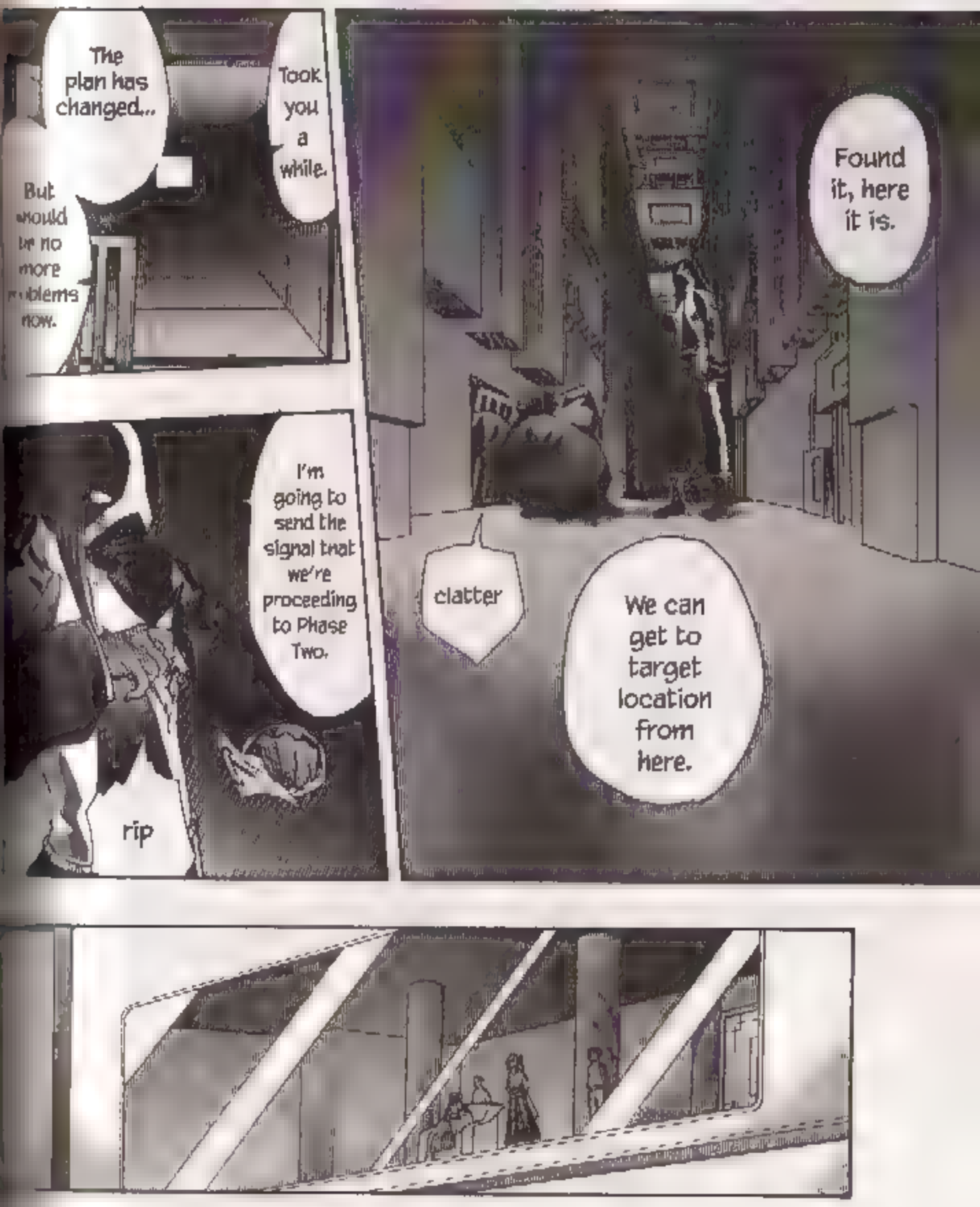

thud
thud
mash..
.....


The winner, Kazuma Issa!!
Point!!

whisper
whisper
...
Yikes.
Hmm...
Phew.
Ho ho... what an entertaining child.
Ho.

There are some things you can't just push through with your will alone.
...but be careful, Captain.
Heh heh.
I guess I still have no chance against you, Captain.
I know.
...yup.
Wow... he ended it in an instant.
Yeah.
You haven't changed at all.
I felt needlelike waves coming from all directions.
Phew, I'm pooped.

clap
I'm back.
Much luck on your two remaining matches!!
Good job!!
Thank you.
Sister Vice-Director, the next match is about to begin.
三國三天
shiver...
ひんやり...
Yeah!

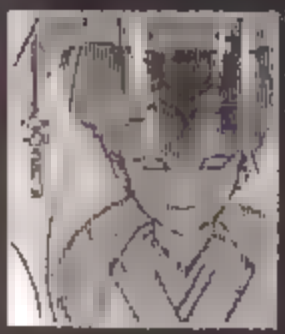

The plan has changed...
But should be no more problems now.
Took you a while.
I'm going to send the signal that we're proceeding to Phase Two.
rip
Found it, here it is.
clatter
We can get to target location from here.

!
fizzle
fizzle
The second match will commence after a five-minute recess.
We apologize for the wait.
The real battle's about to begin.

Data on Neighboring Nations

Kinshisen

Kinshisen is known as a nation advanced in sorcery that rarely interacts with other lands, and so it is greatly mysterious. In addition, its current ruler, Emperor Jiang, is also an enigmatic figure said to have been born from the belly of a snake. While many other nations live under the threat of Dracula attack, Kinshisen continues to defend itself with tight security. This is the first time they have shown interest in the VIUS and have paid a visit.



Rintoka

Ruled by Princess Yumi, Rintoka is a land, warriors and sorcerers of legend. While small in size, it fiercely defends itself with both martial arts and sorcery. Although her aide Takamaru is weak-kneed around beautiful women, the fact that he is her only guard speaks volumes about his true talents. One wonders what form the weapon at his back may be.

Nashuan

Nashuan, which is to the south of Mikuni, is a peaceful country whose citizens are skilled in the arts. Having engaged in limited cultural exchange with Mikuni City before, its Minister of State is acquainted with Elder Kido, one of the Mikuni Three Heavenly Elders. The Minister has long led his government fairly and honestly, but seems to have injured legs and hips in his old age, and has arrived in a wheelchair with an aide. However, the true identity of his aide, if he is the minister aware of it?

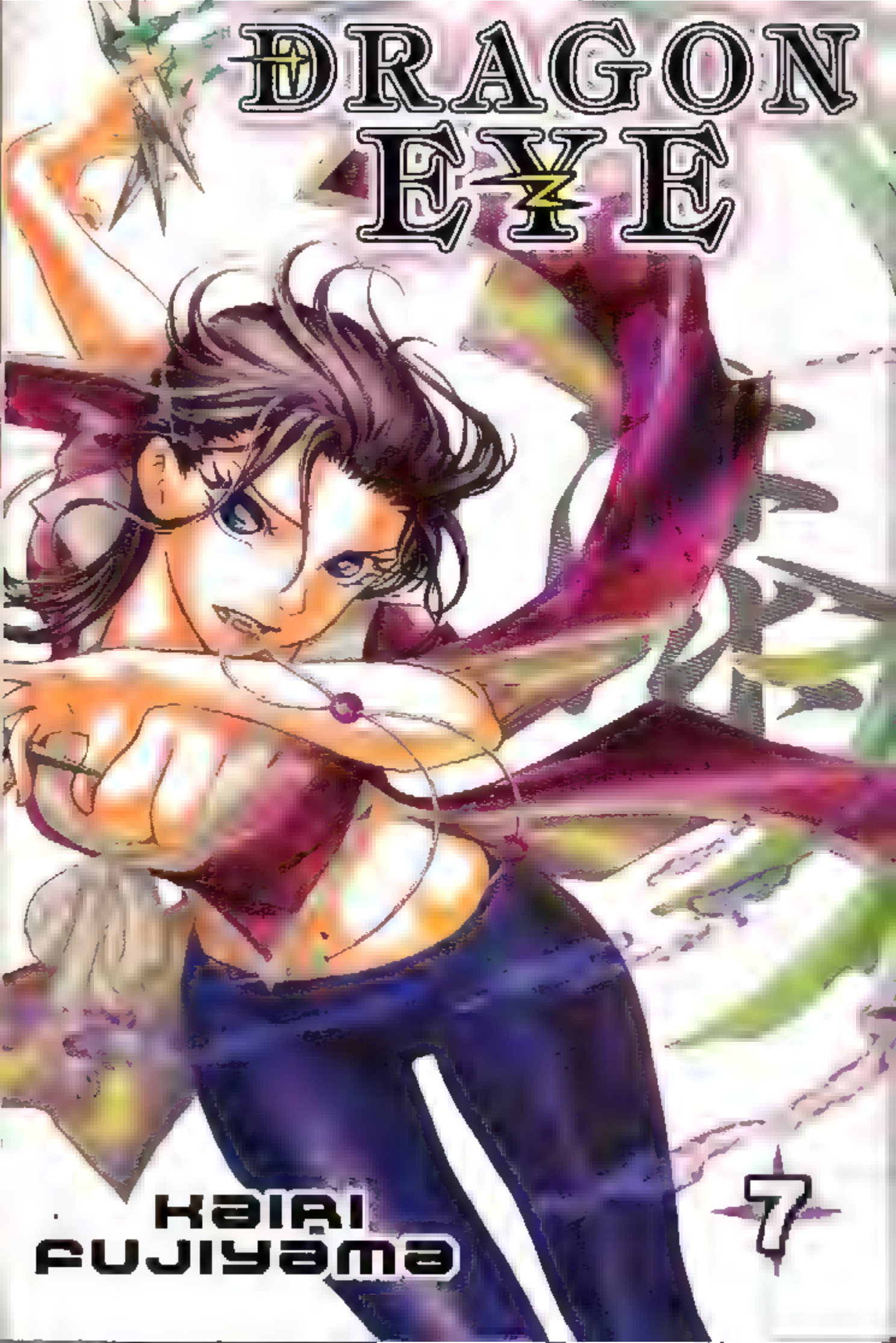
Head Heavenly Elder

The Head Heavenly Elder is the leader of VIUS Central, which joins all of the VIUS cities together. One could say he is the VIUS commander in chief. The current Head Heavenly Elder used to be the minister of state of a small nation that has been destroyed some time ago.

The VIUS Heavenly Elders

VIUS Central is at all times run by the Three Heavenly Elders. Each of the cities that were built upon Earth's continent elects their own Heavenly Elders. Currently, the Heavenly Elders of Queen Pier Port City, Shin City, and Elendoth City are the Mikuni Three.

DRAGON EYE



KAIRI FUJIYAMA

7

= Dragon Eye =

Kairi Fujiyama

6 years ago
the Akuma Clan

7

龍眼

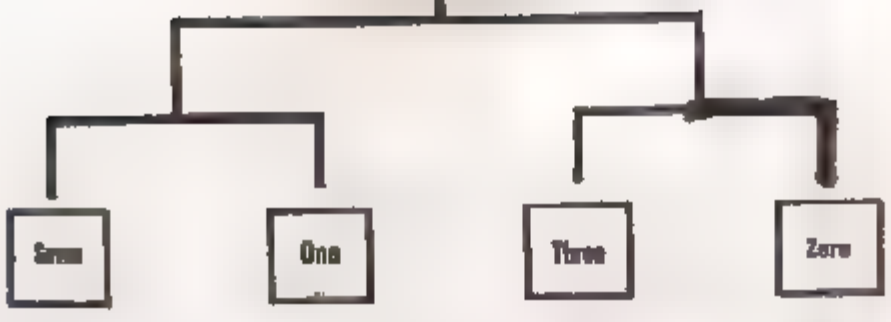
Mission ⓪ Twenty
Mikuni Entered
5

Mission ① Twenty-One
Despicable!
51

Mission ② Twenty-Two
The Pitch-Black Voice
97

Mission ③ Twenty-Three
Finalist Contestants
143

Extras
189

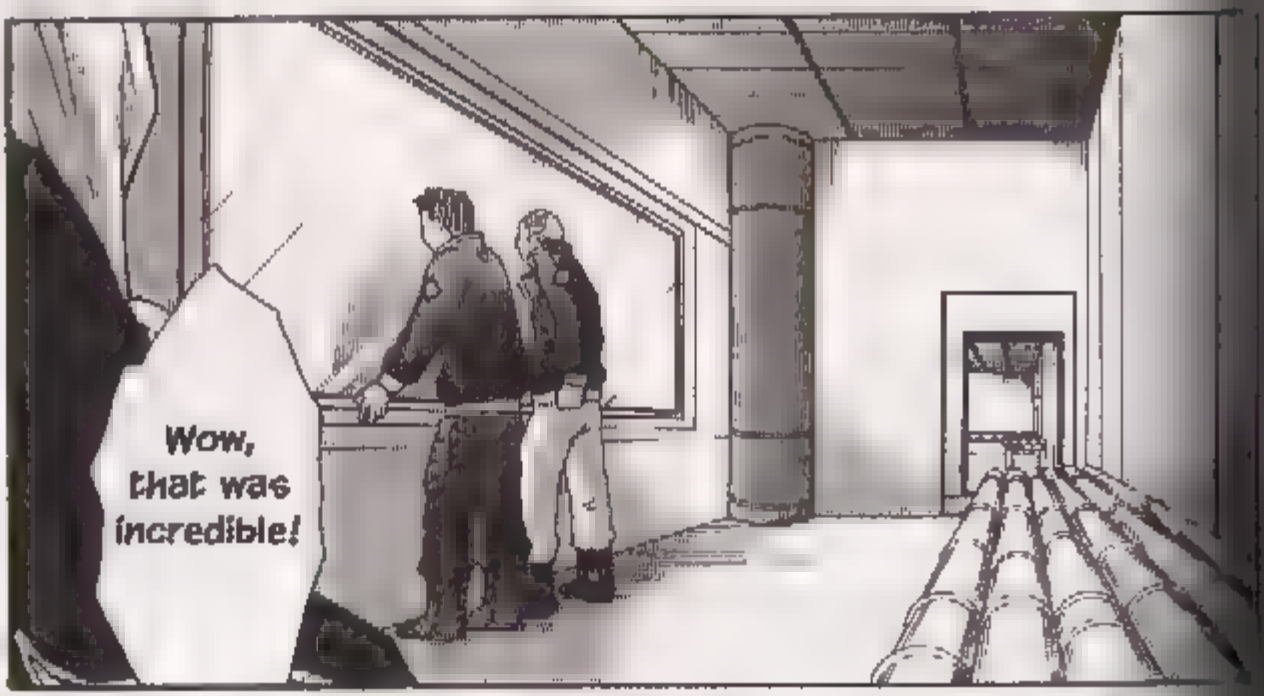


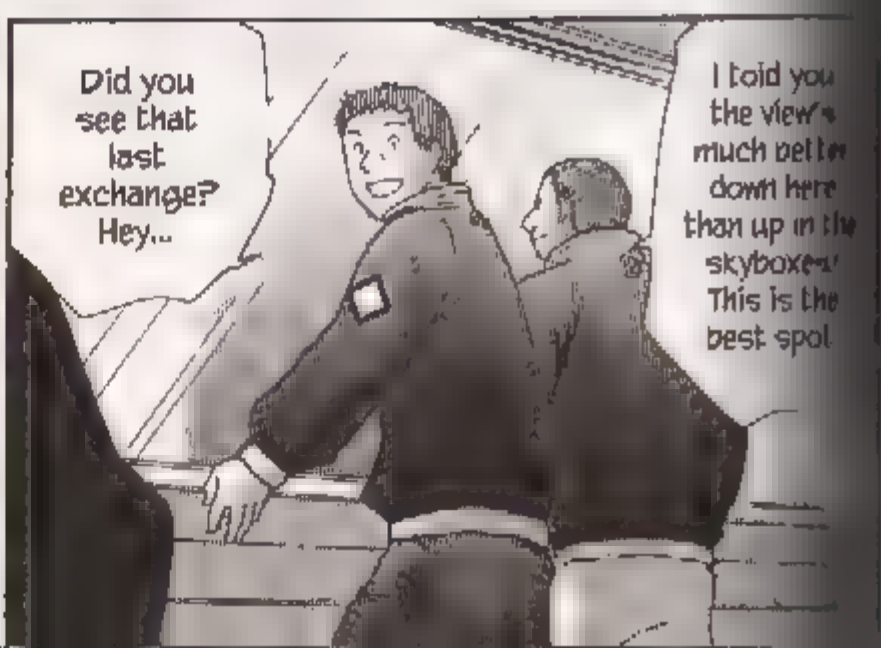
Jin Kanjūrō

Sudō Hajime

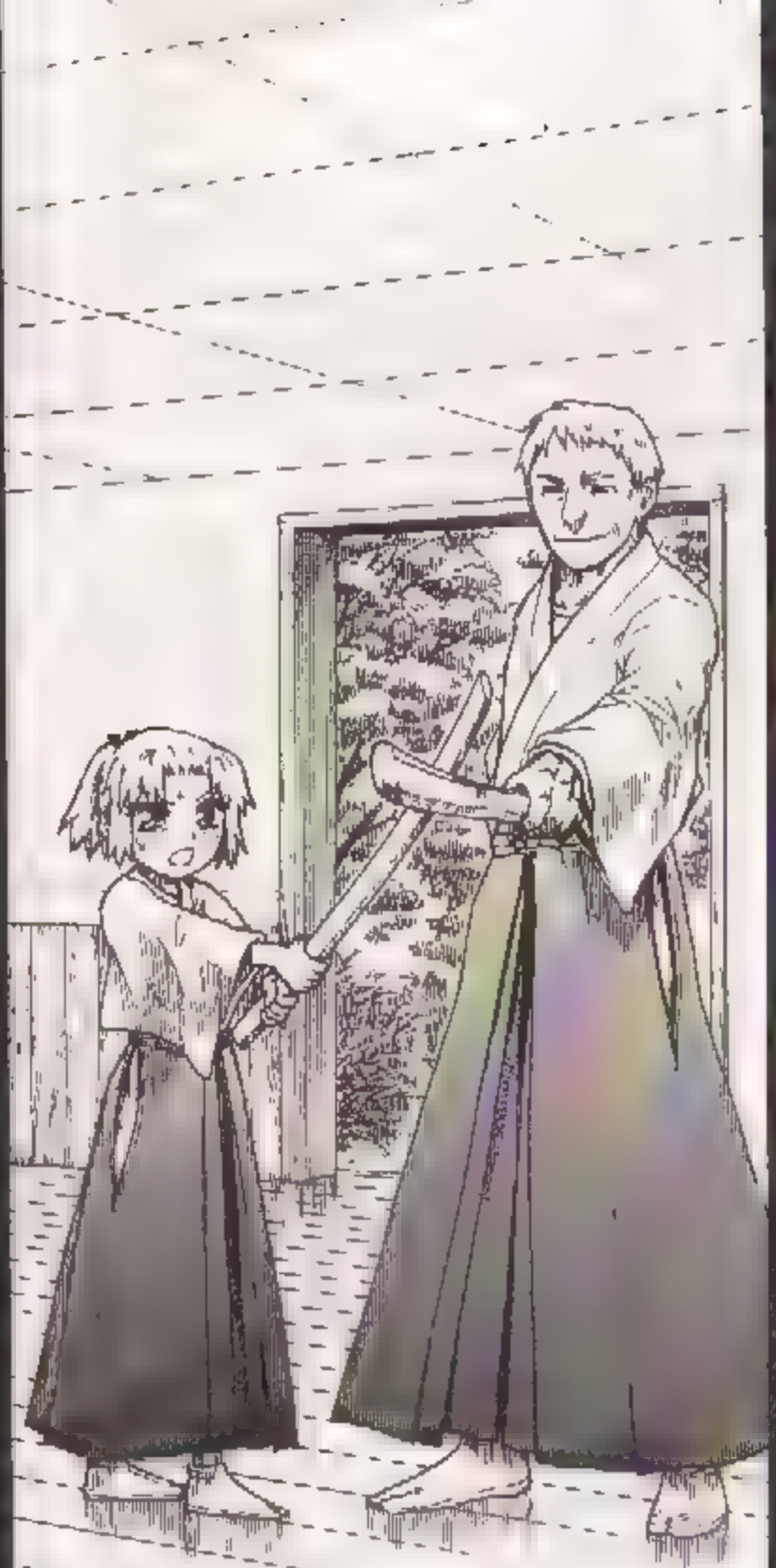
~~Yama Lan-Lan~~

Kazuma Issa (captain delegate)





Oh...
Rip.
Not interested.
Nah.
武相亜



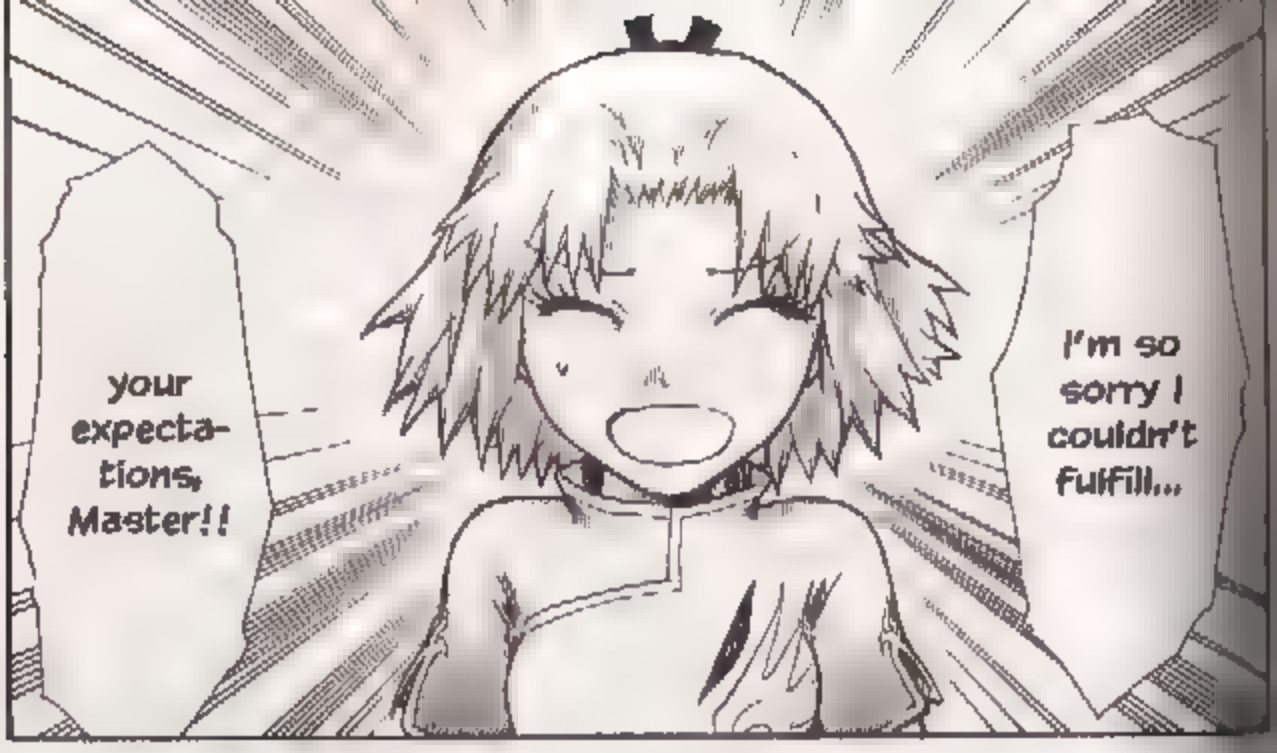
Mission Twenty-Two

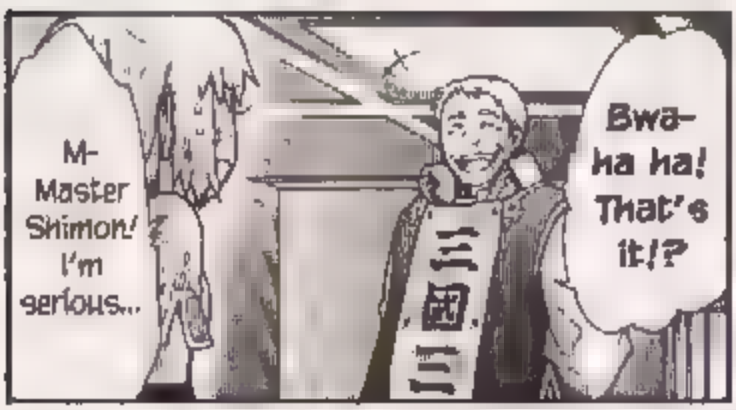
The Pitch-Black Voice

chatter
chatter
chatter
That's interesting. That a unit head of Squad One is participating.
But this Jin person...
This Sudô fellow... I think he's the head of the Sudô Unit of Squad One.
The next match is Sudô Hajime of Squad One vs. Jin Kanjûrô of Squad Seven.
If all goes smoothly, Sudô will probably win... Either way, whoever wins will be your next opponent.
Squad Seven, huh...
...it's him!
I, uh... heard his name mentioned during the preliminaries.

The next match is going to start right away, though... are you sure?
Don't worry. I'll be back before your match, Sôsei-san!
Oh, we have a five-minute recess, right?
I have to go do something.
Don't you get lost!
Issa-kun, be good and don't start snacking!
It's just a quick little errand

Peek
Peek
三天老
I'm so sorry to bother you...
!
What's a little mole poking about for?
U-Um, I...
So, how was it, Mikami Top-Scoring Enlistee?
Ha ha.
Actually, I thought you might be showing up soon.
三國三天老
Um... I know you're really busy, but...

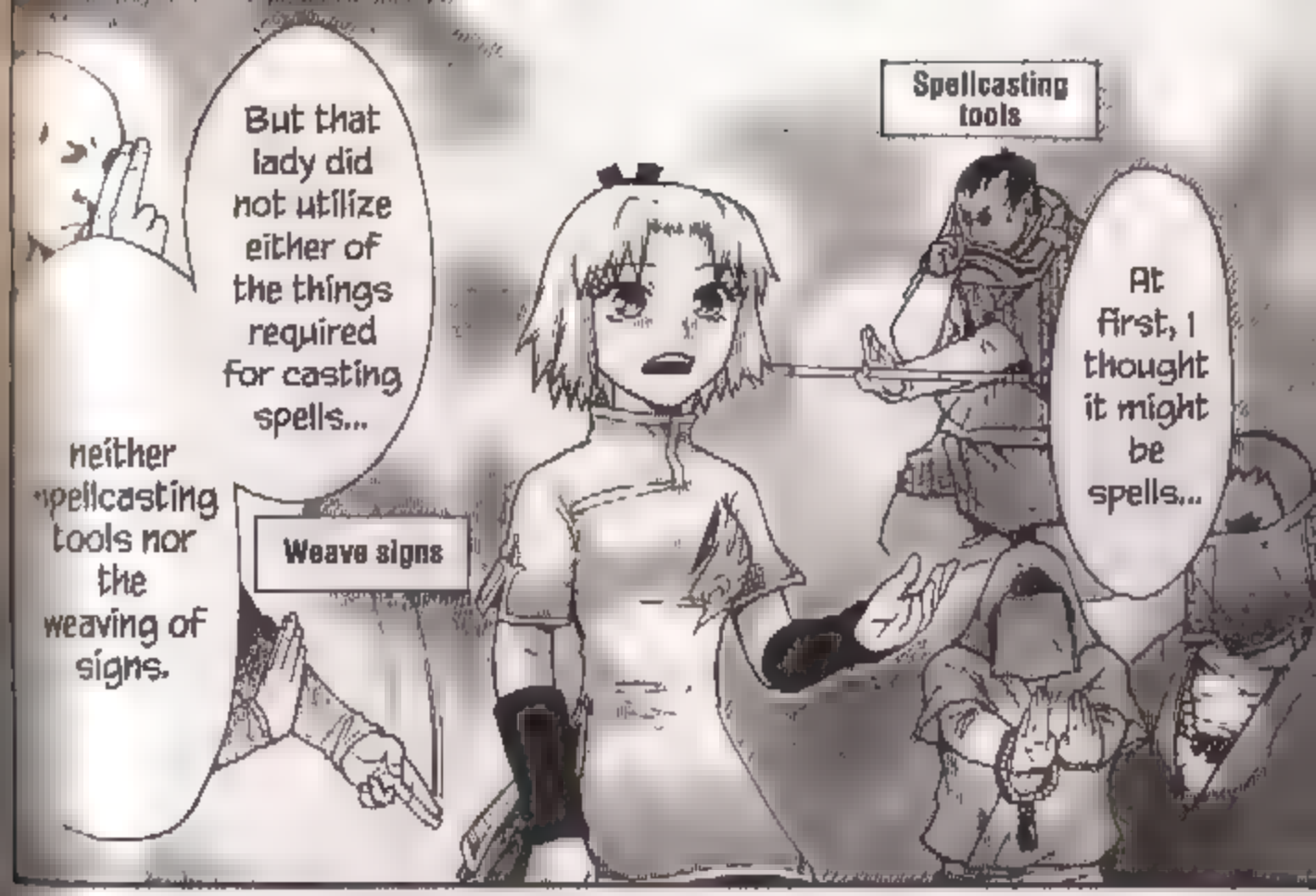

I'm so sorry I couldn't fulfill...
your expectations, Master!!

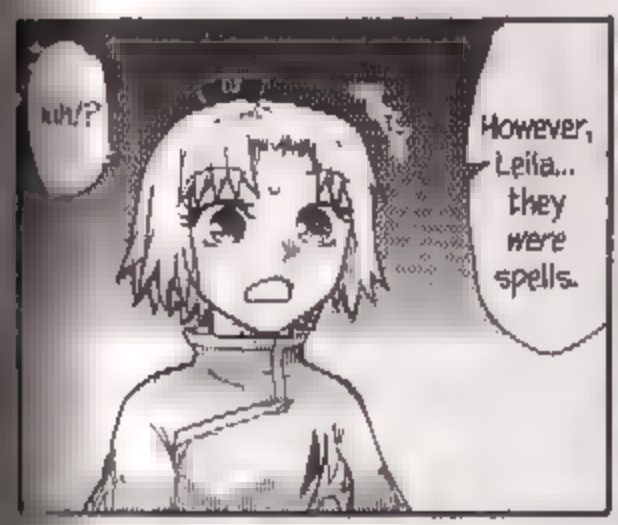

M-Master Shimon! I'm serious...
Bwa-ha ha! That's it!?

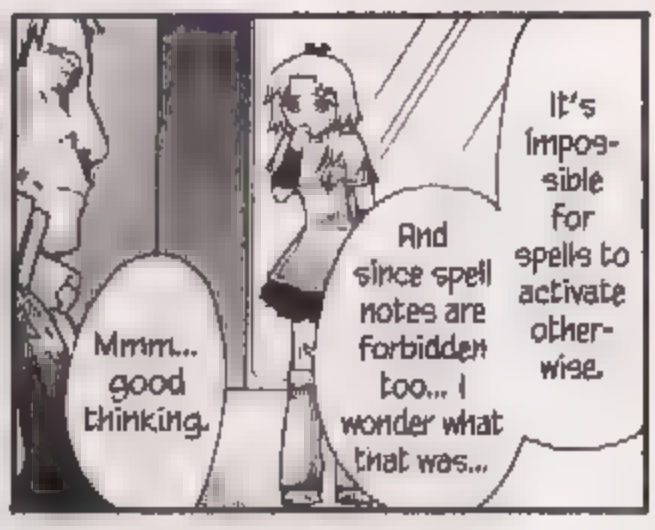
...

And when I looked closely, I saw something glowing dimly in her palm.
!
Even when I got a blow in, there was no reaction or effect...
She was a very... elusive opponent.
Mm.

Leila, do you recall the *Feel*... of your last opponent?
Huh?
Oh, yes.


But that lady did not utilize either of the things required for casting spells...
neither spellcasting tools nor the weaving of signs.
Spellcasting tools
Weave signs
At first, I thought it might be spells...


Uh/?
However, Leila... they were spells.


Mmm... good thinking.
And since spell notes are forbidden too... I wonder what that was...
It's impossible for spells to activate otherwise.

Your opponent is no ordinary warrior. Even I might have difficulty winning against her.
!
But there are a few who can make that happen.
As you pointed out, spells, for the most part, cannot come from nowhere.

Aah, but when it comes to those types of High Master, ordinary VIUS are no match.
Do you know why?
No way, Master. You, lose!?
Whaa...!?
Well then... shall we make it your homework to figure out, by day's end?
Huh?
Uh why?
Er...
So ponder it deeply.

Oh, and I need to speak to Sakuraba-kun about the referees.
Excuse me.
H-Homework? I can't believe he gave me homework, even after I've graduated...
mutter
mutter
you're different in front of your disciple.
Aah.
What is it?

** It reads: "I will summon him "

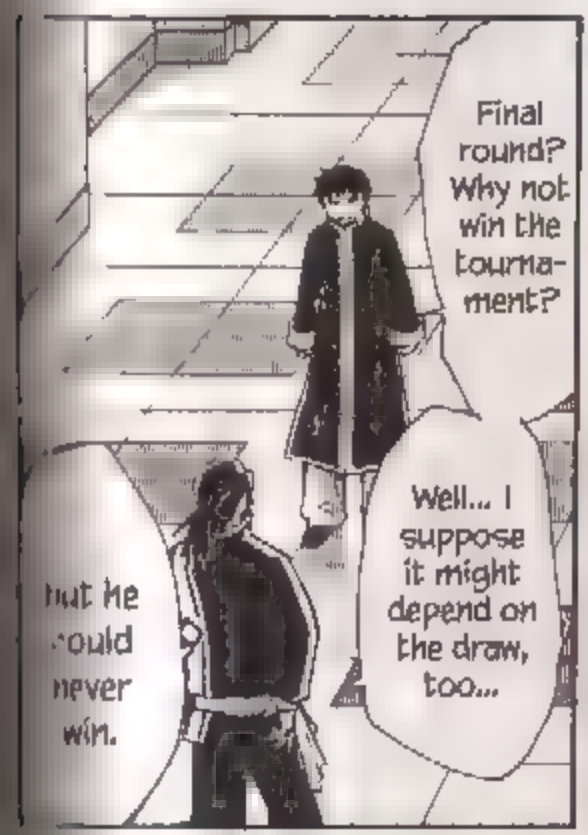
flicker
...I thought I just saw another contestant "wandering about"...
That's what you came to tell me?
Contestants shouldn't be wandering about. Go back.
...What's the matter?
Lost your confidence that you can remain long enough to fight Kazuma?
How many *other* schemes did you embed in it?
This tournament
If you've *meddled* with *my* next match, too!!
What I want to know is...
In fact, it's more dubious whether *he'll* make it to the finals!
** I don't care about a man who's already lost once to me!

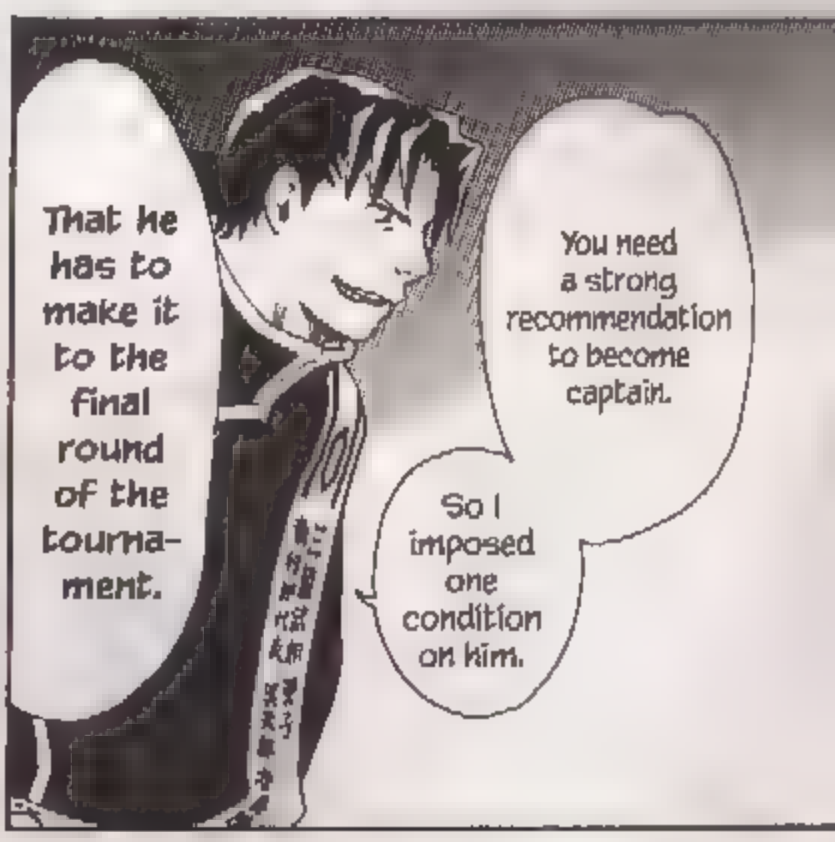
** *It reads: "I don't care about a man who's already lost once to me!"*

Oh yes, I know.
You just focus on your battles.
Now go, I have things to do.
I will *not* take part in any rigging.
I'll win it because of my abilities. And that's how I'll defeat Kazuma as well.
I thought that was our agreement.
Why are you concerned? It's not like you.
Darn it!
.....
Ah!
I am *not* a pawn!!
clip
clip

Masamune! If it isn't Masamune!
What are you doing here?
三國武相平
執行部代表
Hi.
Long time no see! I've hardly ever run into you since you transferred to Squad Six.
I was surprised when I heard you were entering the tournament!
After all, you've been turning it down the last five years or so.
...Should I not have entered?
stamp
stamp
Oh no, it's just that there seem to be so many veterans this year.
I'm wondering if something's up.
I never imagined Akira-san would enter, either.

The other day, he asked me to nominate him for captain-elect.
!
But Akira has motive.
Yeah.
Once one reaches the upper ranks, one usually declines to participate.

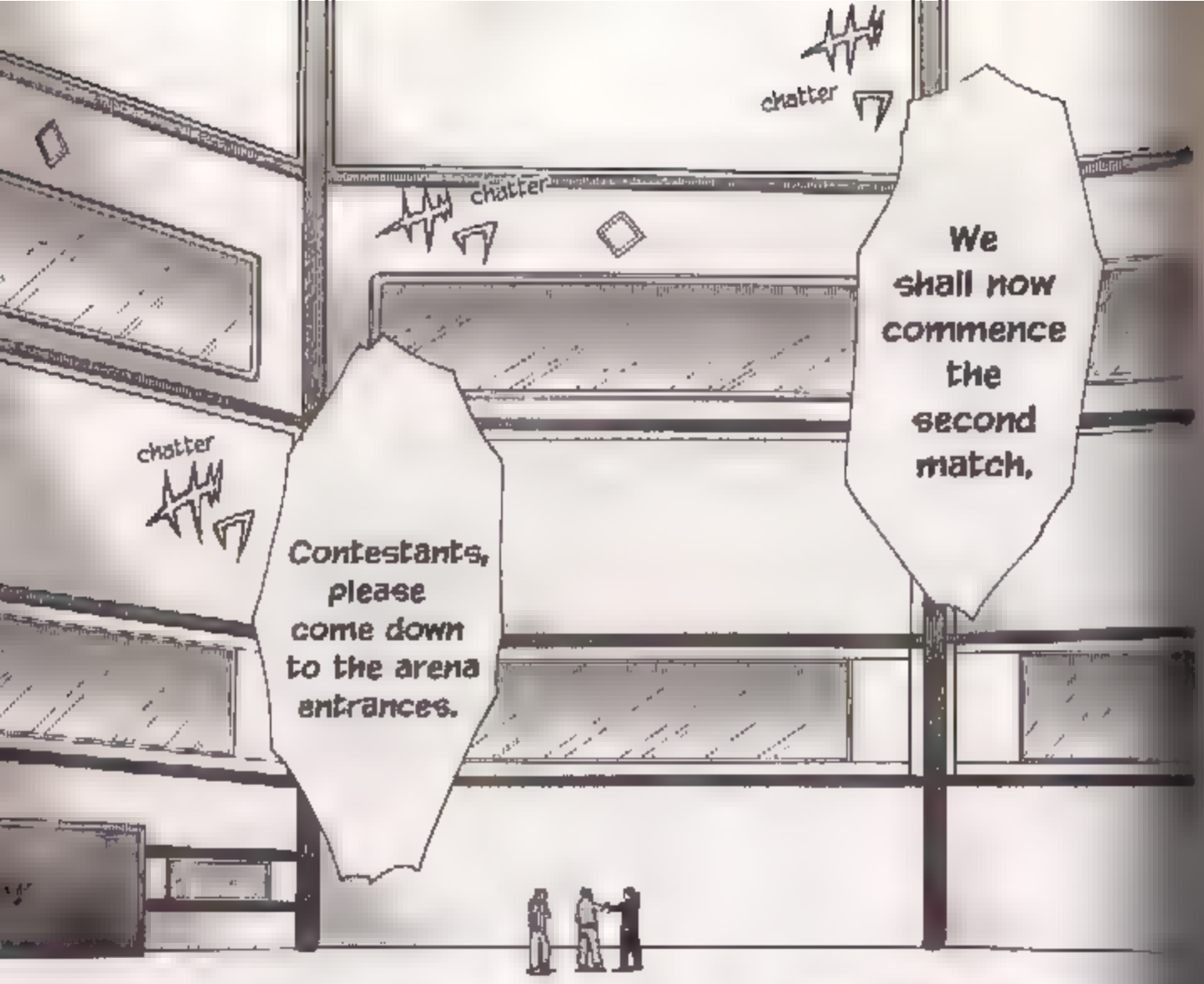

Final round? Why not win the tournament?
Well... I suppose it might depend on the draw, too...
but he would never win.


That he has to make it to the final round of the tournament.
You need a strong recommendation to become captain.
So I imposed one condition on him.

Akira can't win against Kazuma Issa.

You make it sound like it's already decided.
But that's where he's fear-some. He's unread-able.
Ha ha! I know he doesn't look it.
...Is he really that incred ible...?
武相亜子
If anyone can take him down, I think it'll be someone other than Akira.
Nah.
三国
執行
!
?
!

Someone who's just as unreadable.
I'm looking forward to your next match!
Oops, I need to take care of my business.

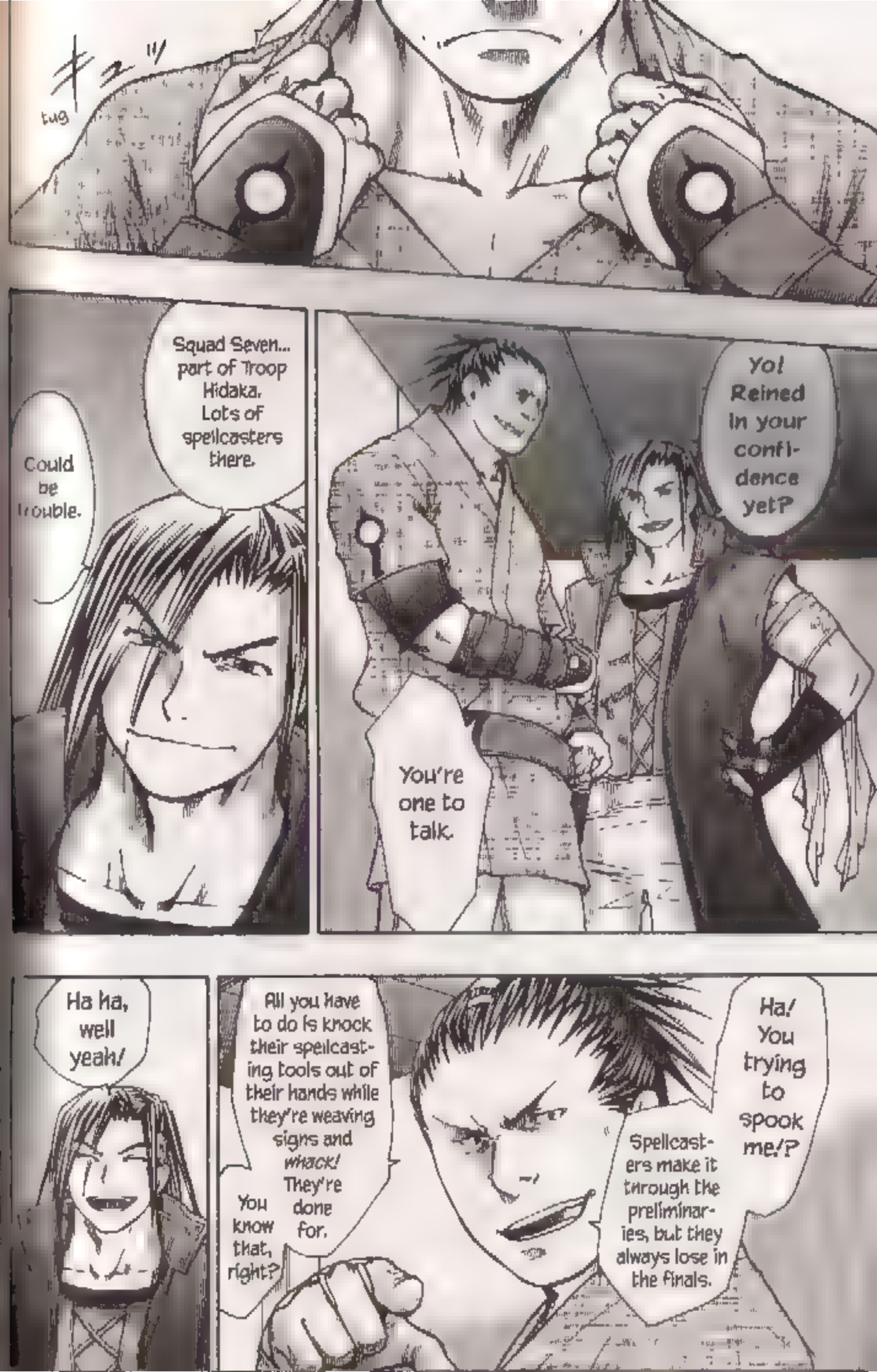

chatter
chatter
chatter
We shall now commence the second match.
Contestants, please come down to the arena entrances.

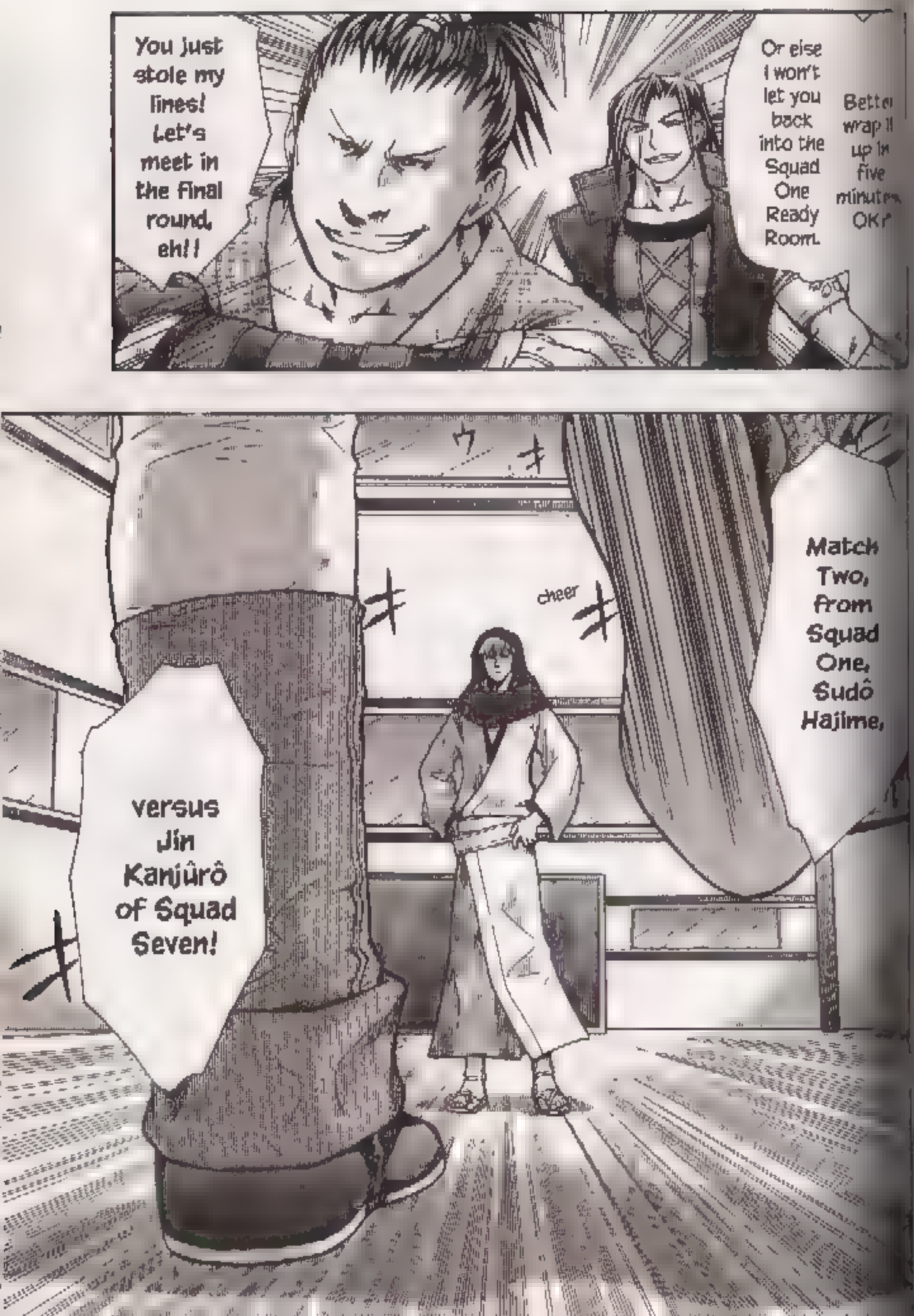
I'll be right back. You stay put, since trouble follows you around!
Ugh.

This place is like a maze. She wouldn't be the first.

Hey, aren't you a contestant!?
trot
I'll go look around.

The match is about to start Leila's not back yet
...Maybe she did get lost.

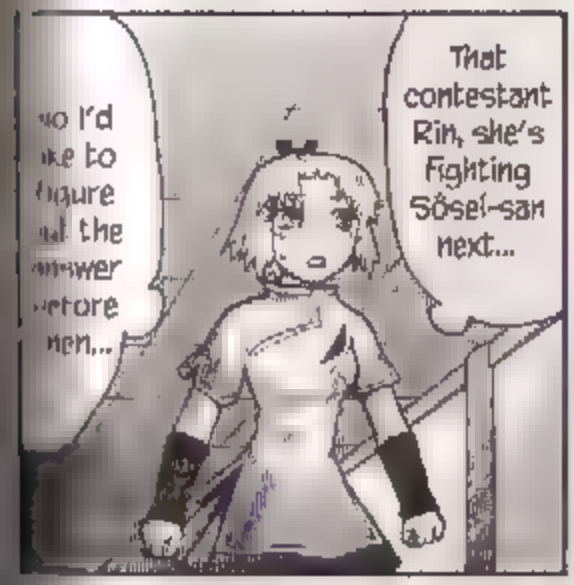

tug
Squad Seven... part of Troop Hidaka. Lots of spellcasters there.
Could be trouble.
Yo! Reined in your confidence yet?
You're one to talk.
Ha ha, well yeah!
All you have to do is knock their spellcasting tools out of their hands while they're weaving signs and *whack!* They're done for.
You know that, right?
Spellcasters make it through the preliminaries, but they always lose in the finals.
Ha! You trying to spook me!?

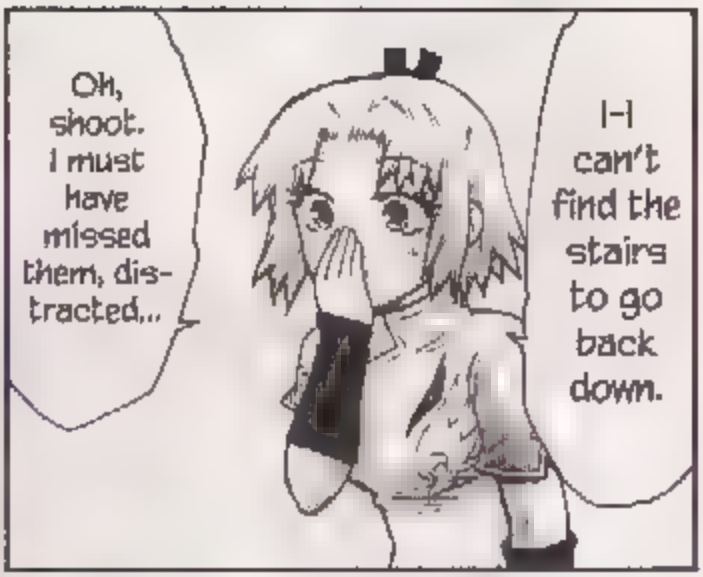

You just stole my lines! Let's meet in the final round, eh!!
Or else I won't let you back into the Squad One Ready Room.
Better wrap it up in five minutes, OK?
cheer
Match Two, from Squad One, Sudô Hajime,
versus Jin Kanjûrô of Squad Seven!

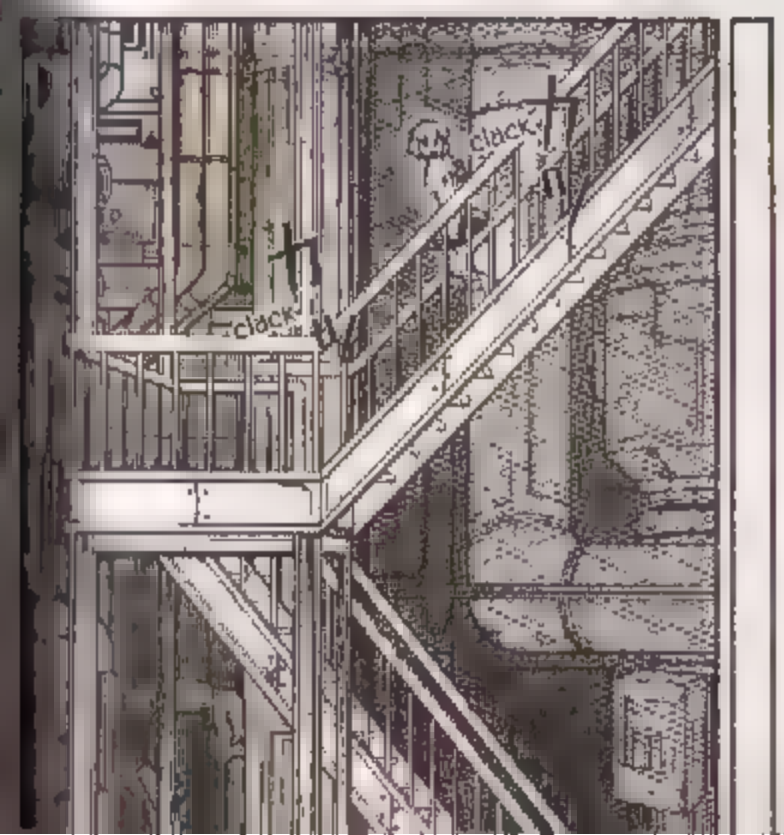
snap
...I don't see any spell-casting tools... is he not going to use spells?
What a creepy guy.
slip...
BEGIN!
Well, either way, just need to beat him up.
click

stomp
stomp
That he's a Squad One unit head means he's at least captain-level in strength, eh! You hardly ever get to see matches of this caliber!
Finally, one of the real candidates to win this. Sudô Hajime.
You're not going to watch? It has the looks of a spectacular...
whump
driver

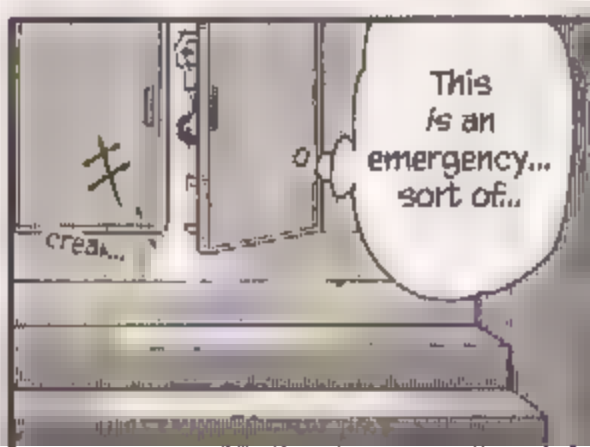
Oh... huh?
trot...
When it comes to those types of High Masters, ordinary VIUS are no match.
Do you know why?

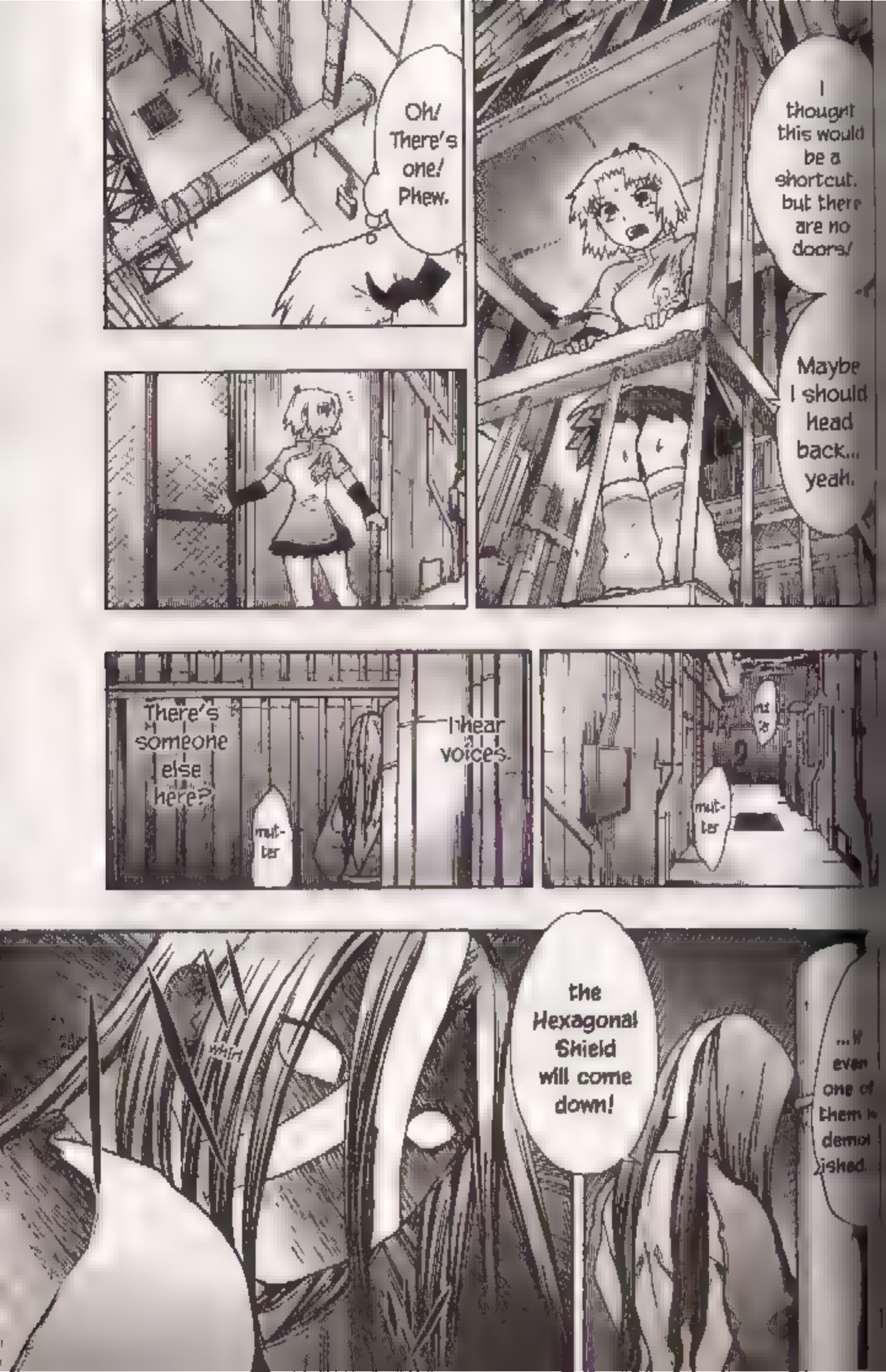

That contestant Rin, she's fighting Sōsei-san next...


Oh, shoot. I must have missed them, distracted...
I-I can't find the stairs to go back down.

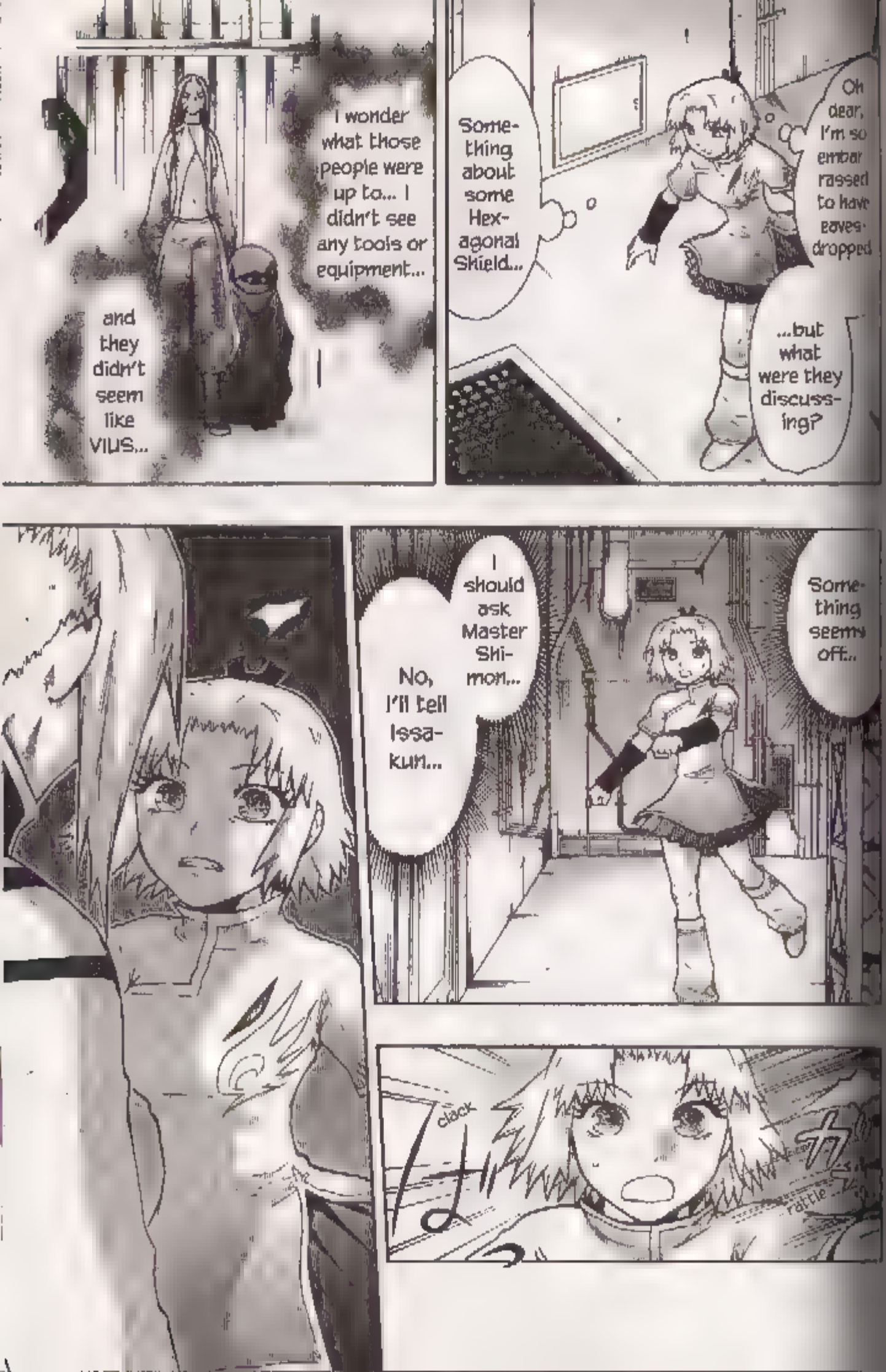

clack
clack

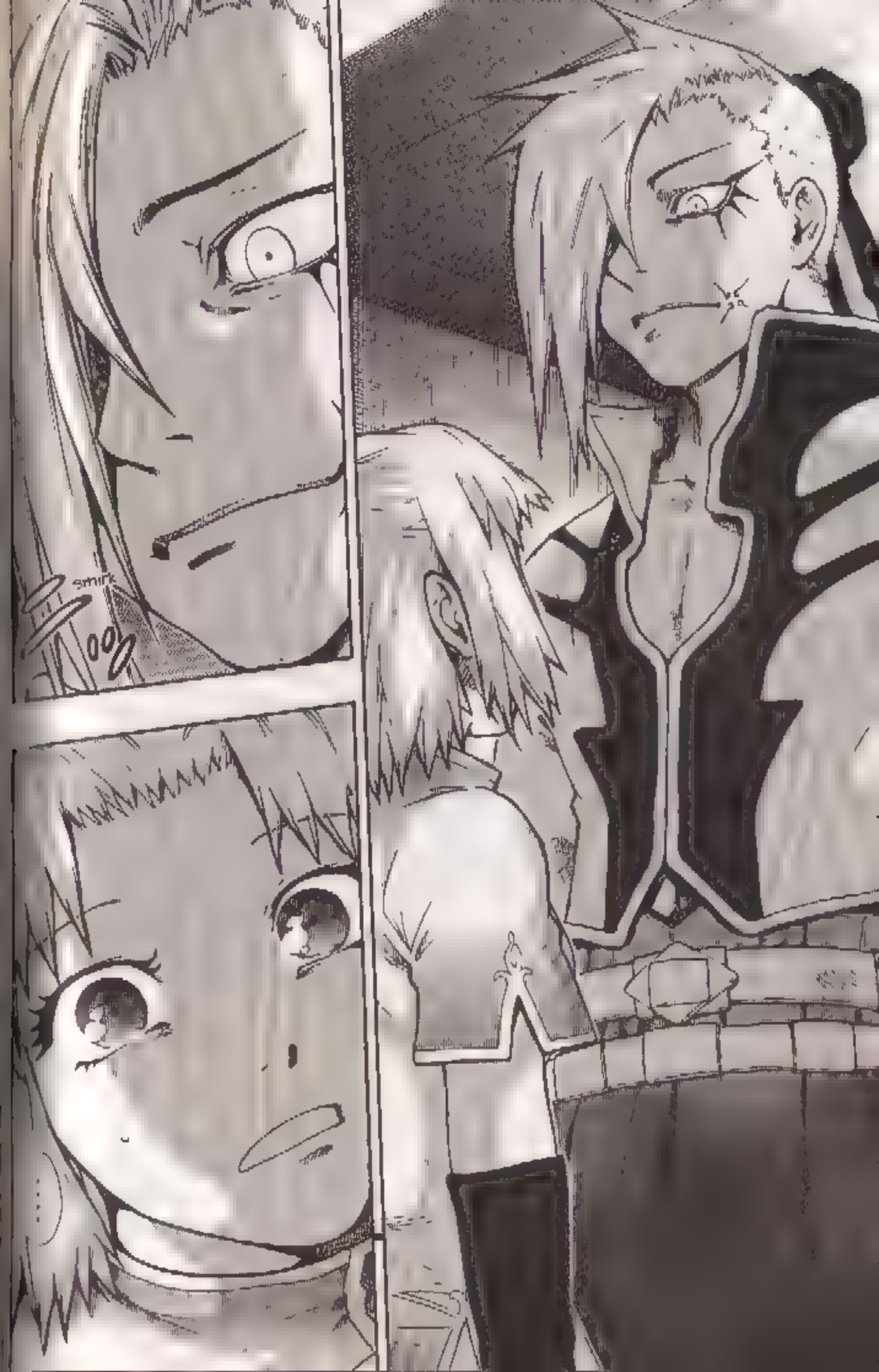
Emergency Staircase


This is an emergency... sort of...
creak...

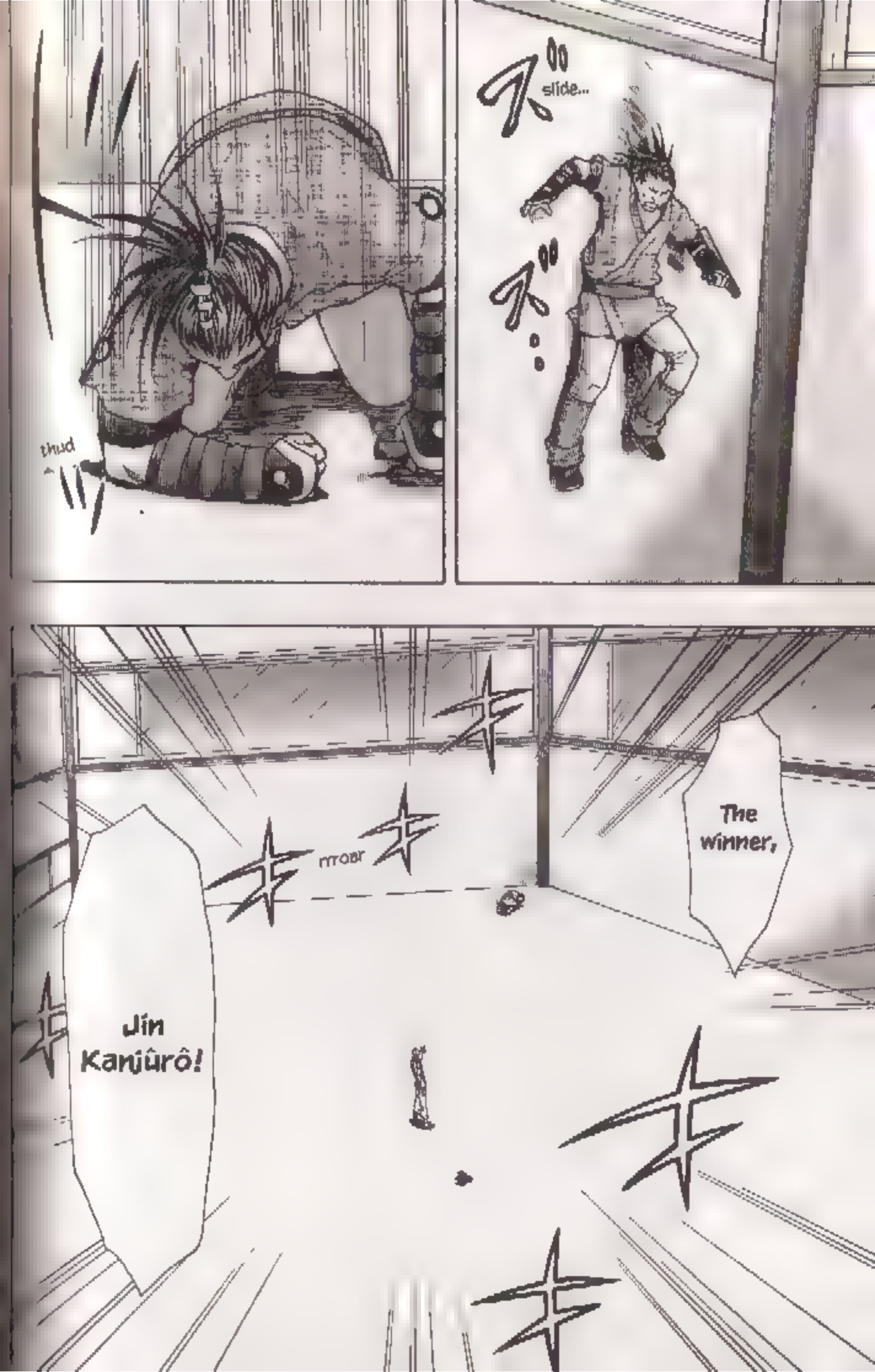

Oh! There's one! Phew.
I thought this would be a shortcut. but there are no doors!
Maybe I should head back... yeah.
There's someone else here?
mut-ter
I hear voices.
mut-ter
mut-ter
the Hexagonal Shield will come down!
...if even one of them is demol ished.

Oh... I'm so sorry. I was in a rush...
so I ducked in here without permission.
...no problem.
Please excuse me.
パコリ
bow
trot
trot
trot

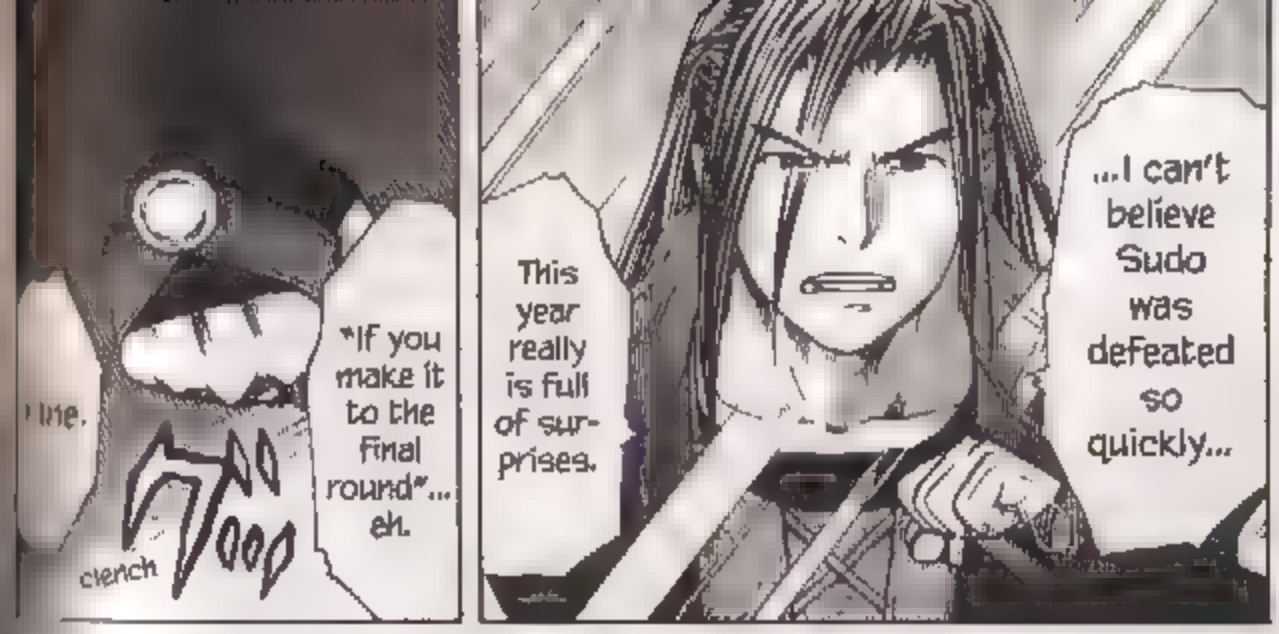

I wonder what those people were up to... I didn't see any tools or equipment...
and they didn't seem like Vius...
Something about some Hexagonal Shield...
Oh dear, I'm so embarrassed to have eavesdropped
...but what were they discussing?
Something seems off...
I should ask Master Shimon...
No, I'll tell Issa-kun...
click
rattle


smirk

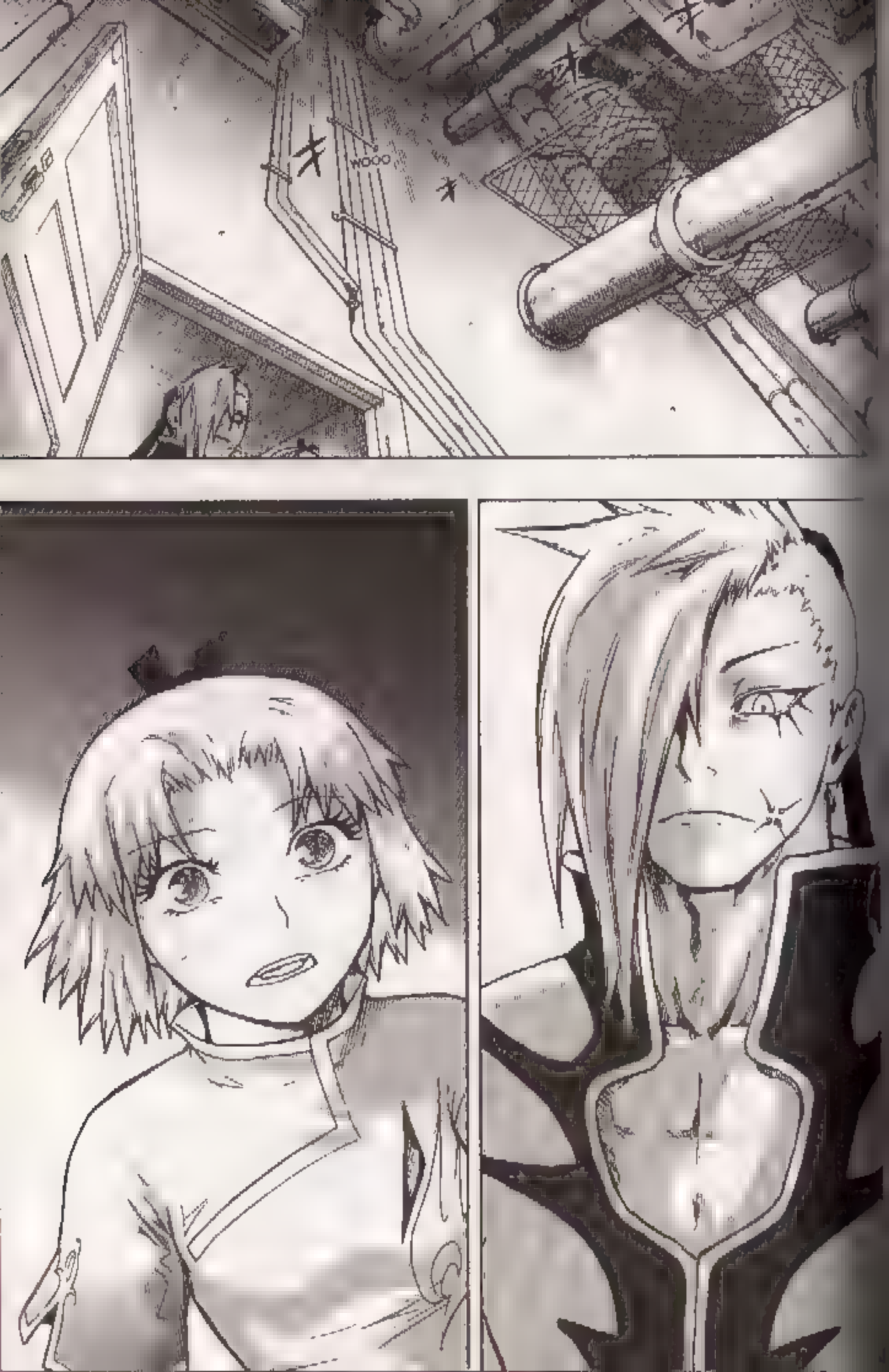
gagh

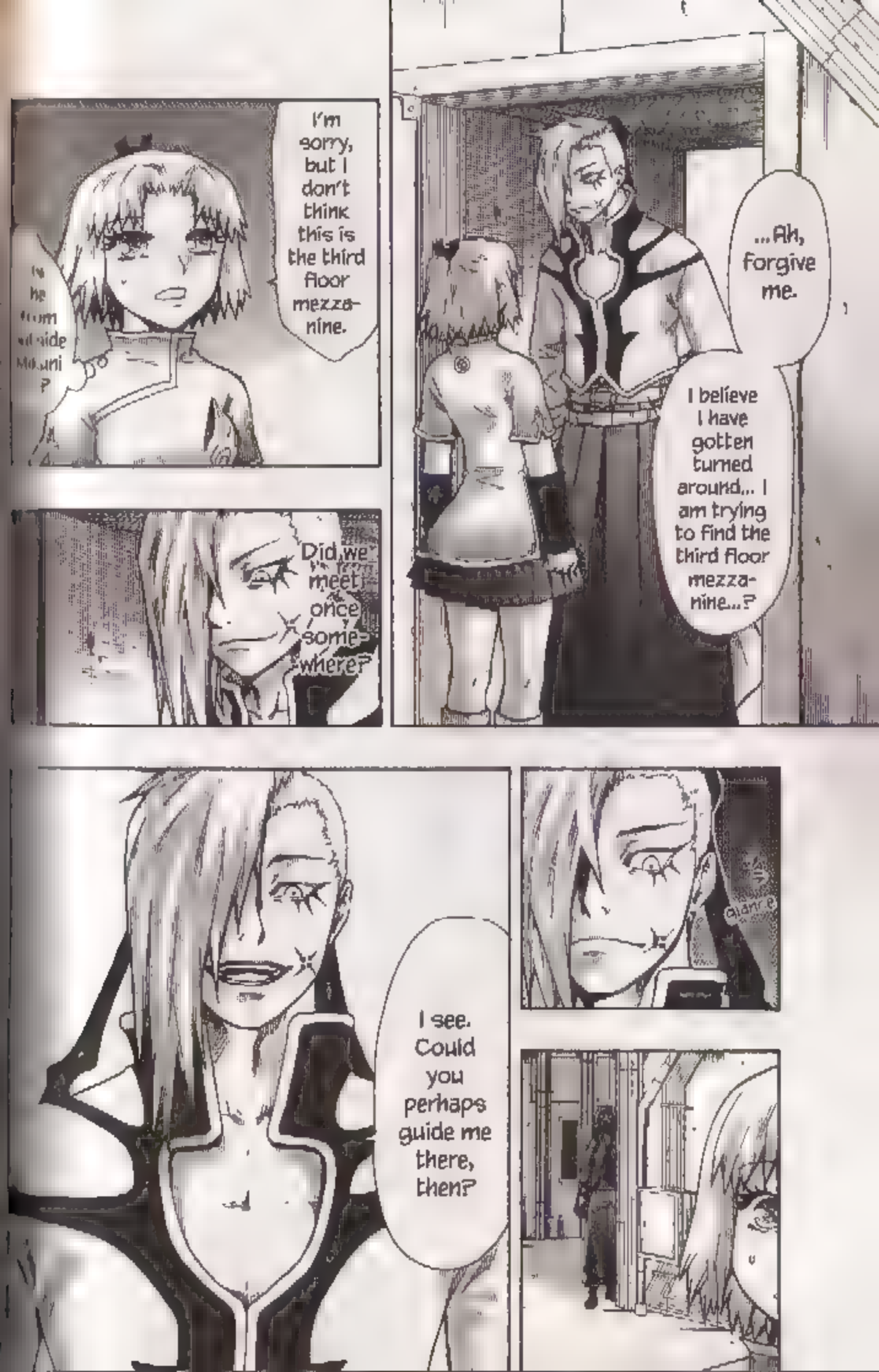

thud
slide...
roar
The winner,
Jin Kanjûrô!

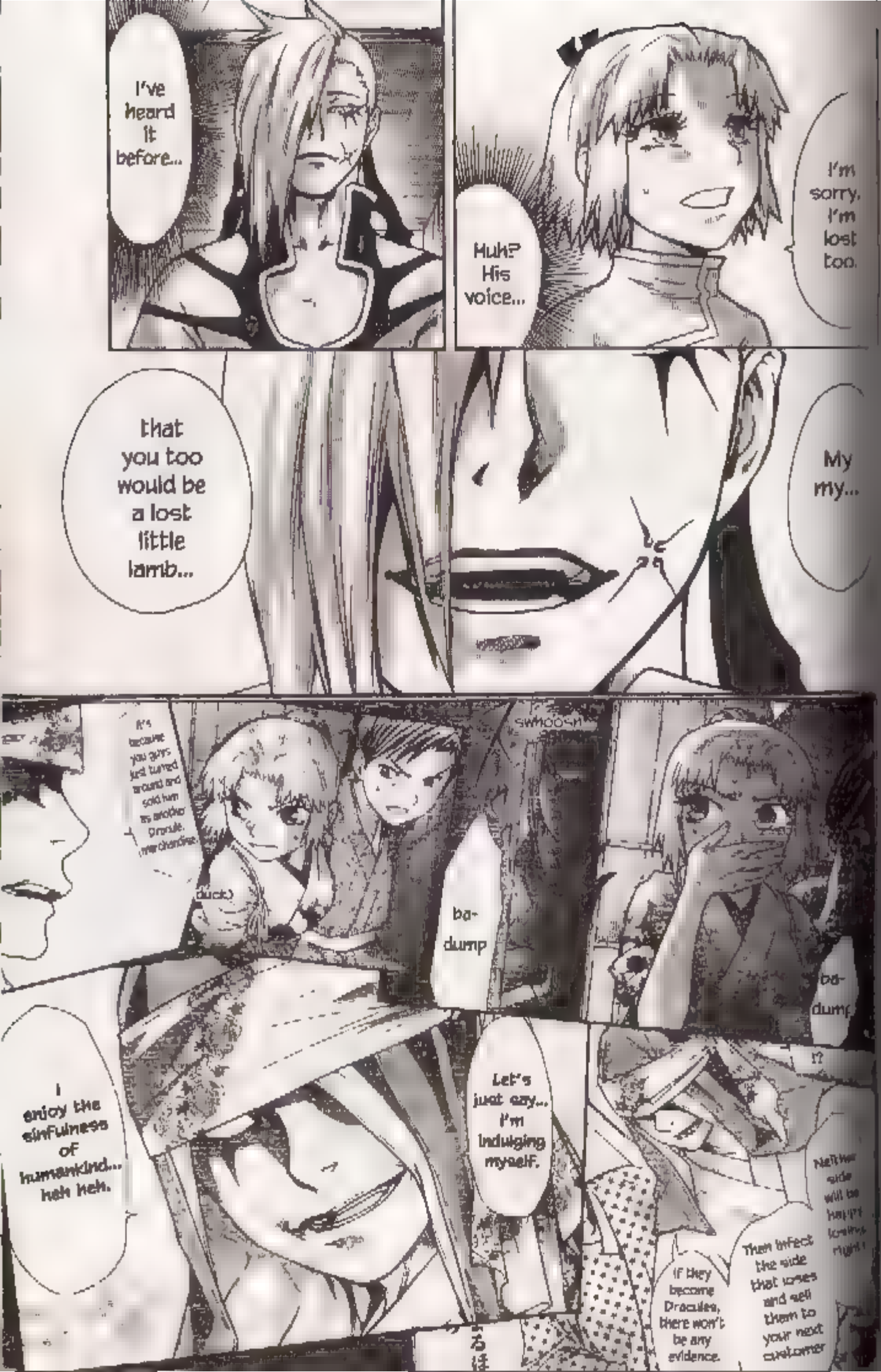
pat...
fizz
...He's a spell-caster.
And a pretty formi-dable one at that.
What just hap-pened?
What the..!
No way.../ You don't have any casting tools, so how...!?
pant
pant
Heh heh.
Just as I expected, other squads are ignorant about sorcery.
You muscle men of Squad One are especially easy to handle.

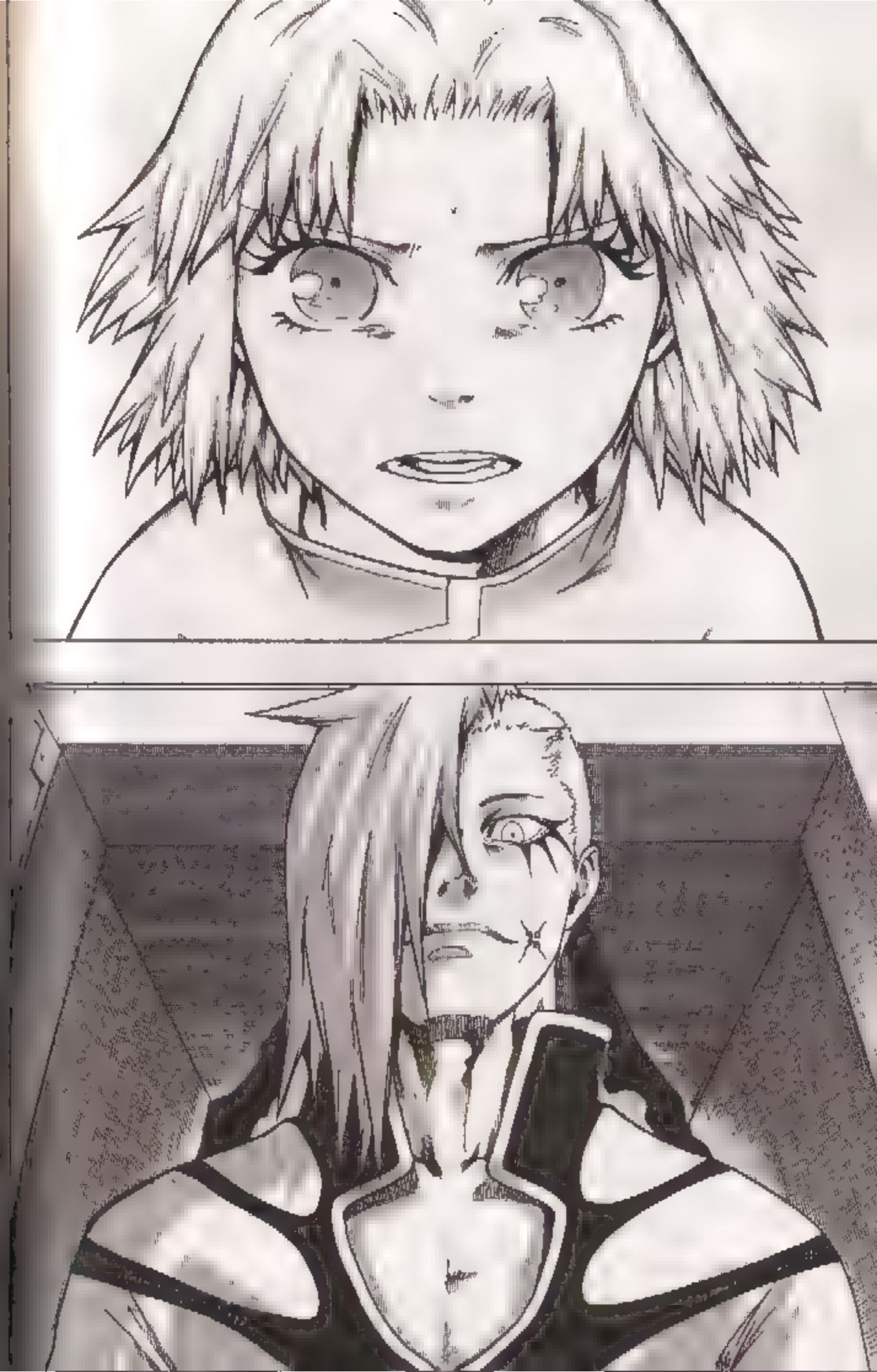

...I can't believe Sudo was defeated so quickly...
This year really is full of surprises.
"If you make it to the final round"... eh.
clench
me.

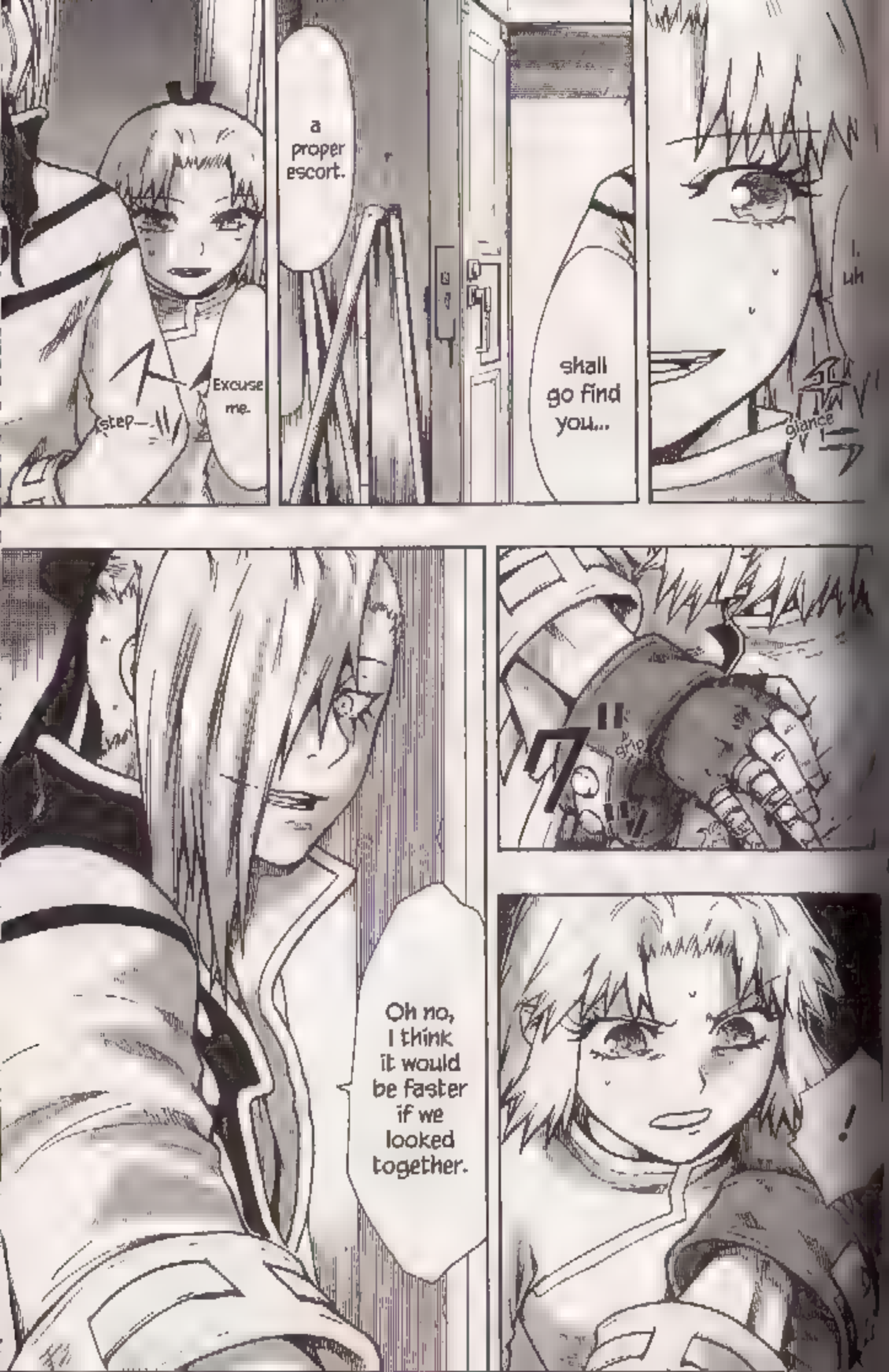
Sudô, I'll avenge you...
by winning this whole thing and showering our squad with accolades!


WOOO


I'm sorry, but I don't think this is the third floor mezza-nine.
...Ah, Forgive me.
I believe I have gotten turned around... I am trying to find the third floor mezza-nine...?
Did we meet once some-where?
I see. Could you perhaps guide me there, then?


I've heard it before...
Huh? His voice...
I'm sorry. I'm lost too.
that you too would be a lost little lamb...
My my...
It's because you guys just turned around and sold him as another Dracula merchandise.
duck
SWOOSH
ba-dump
ba-dump
I enjoy the sinfulness of humankind... heh heh.
Let's just say... I'm indulging myself.
Neither side will be happy tonight.
Then infect the side that loses and sell them to your next customer.
If they become Draculas, there won't be any evidence.



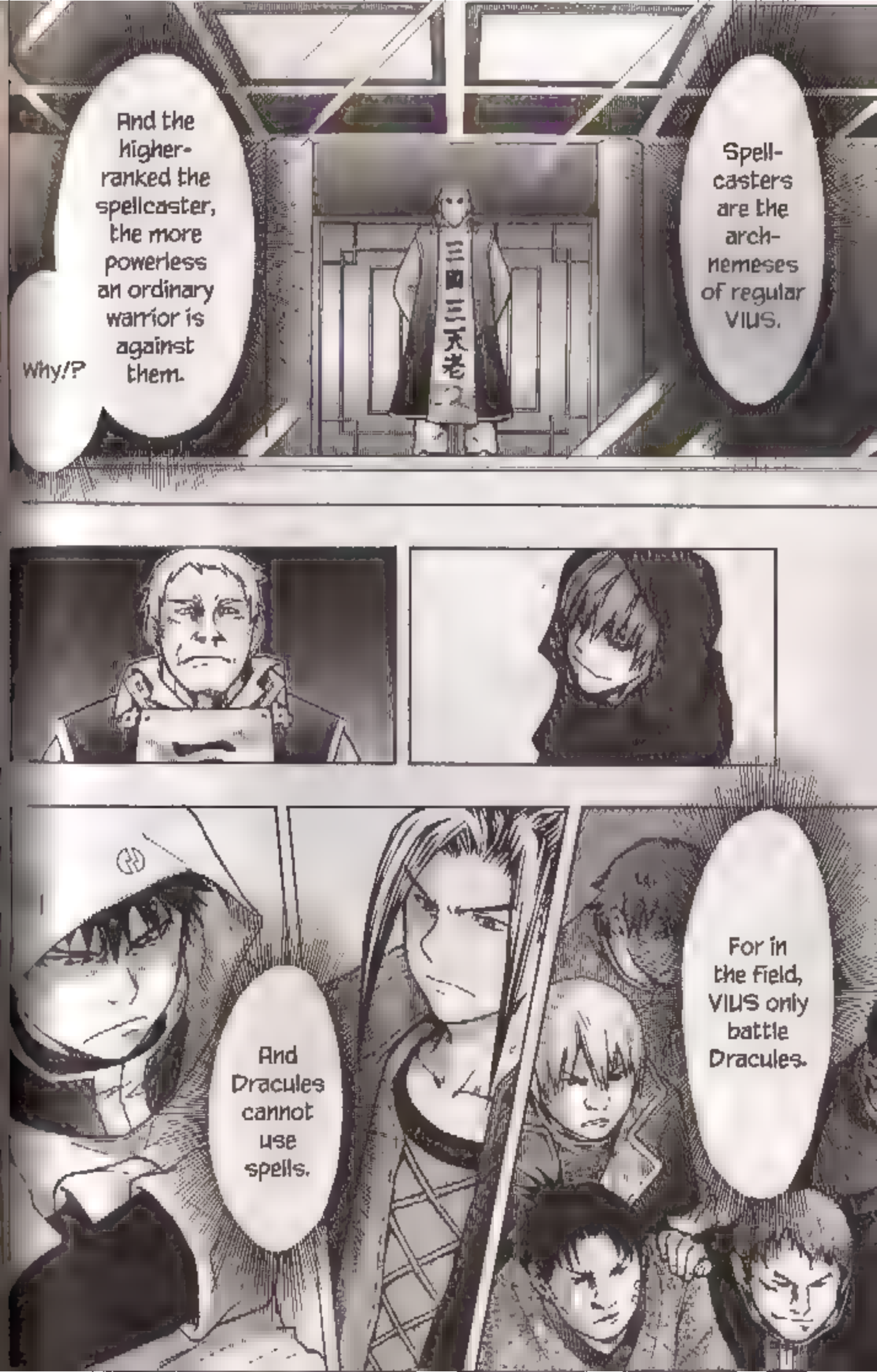

Excuse me.
step—
a proper escort.
shall go find you...
I, uh
glance
Oh no, I think it would be faster if we looked together.
grip
!

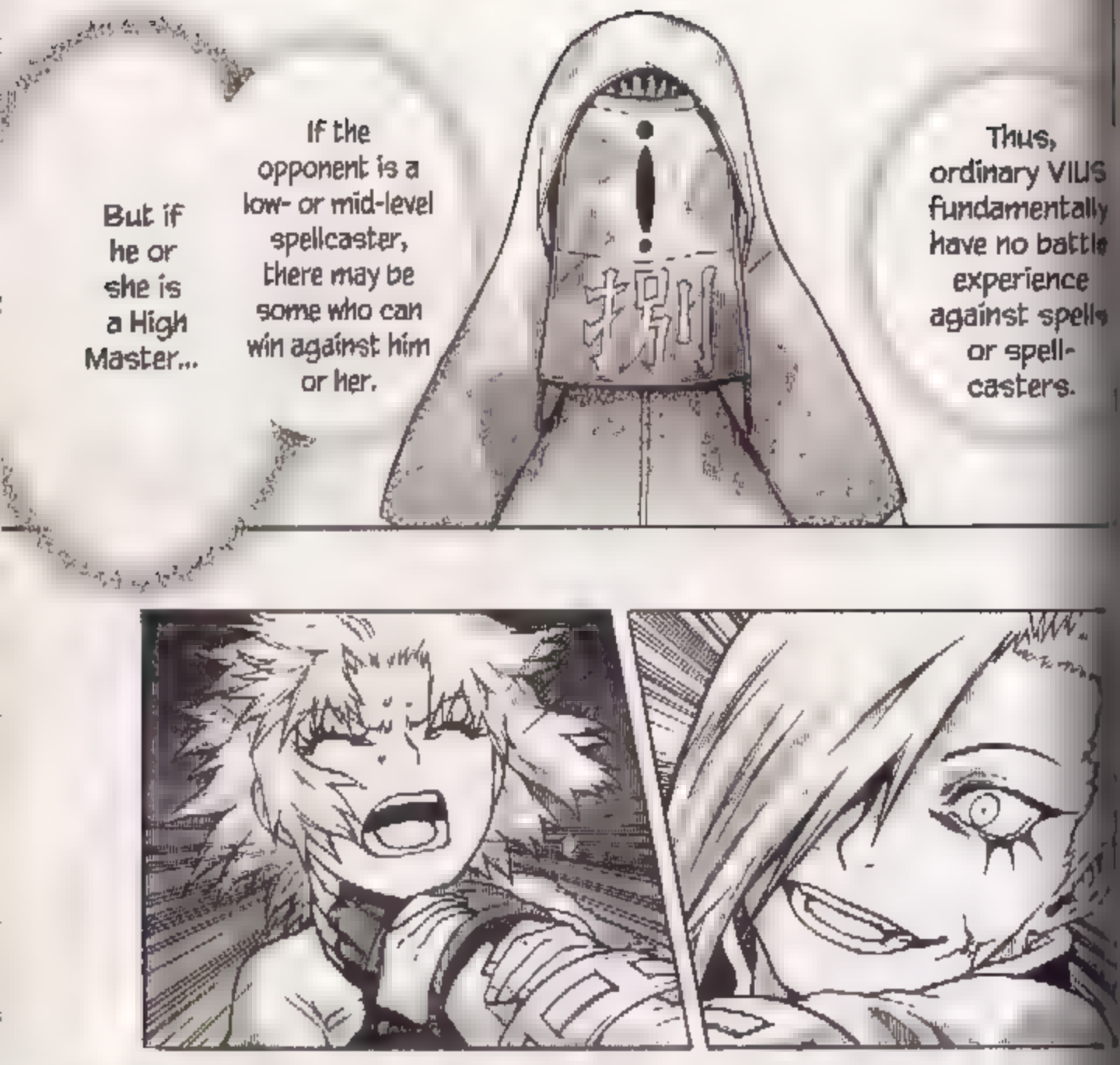
glare
thwap
!
dive

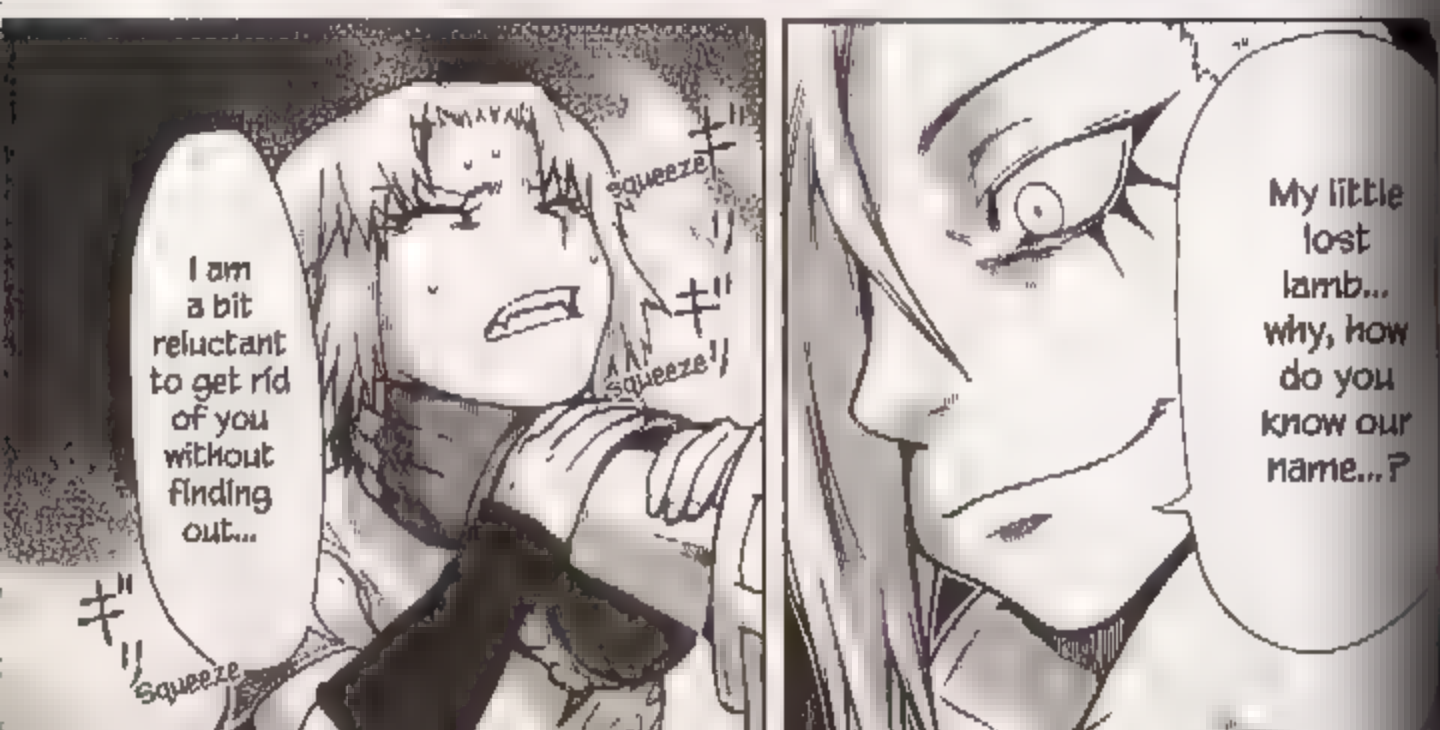
grab
snatch
whirl
woosh

Wheen
Ba-dump
...Don't tell me... you're...
Ba-dump
Daraku!!!
...How did you know!?

Starting with Match Three, we will be switching referees.
The new referee is Squad Four Captain Madoka Marika.


Spell-casters are the arch-nemeses of regular VIUS.
三国三天老
And the higher-ranked the spellcaster, the more powerless an ordinary warrior is against them.
Why!?
For in the field, VIUS only battle Dracules.
And Dracules cannot use spells.


But if he or she is a High Master...
If the opponent is a low- or mid-level spellcaster, there may be some who can win against him or her.
Thus, ordinary VIUS fundamentally have no battle experience against spells or spell-casters.


I am a bit reluctant to get rid of you without finding out...
Squeeze
Squeeze
Squeeze
My little lost lamb... why, how do you know our name...?

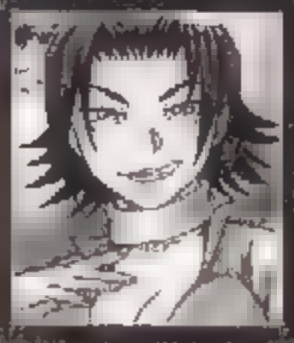
gleam..
most regular VIUS would be as helpless as newborn babies.
Before a High Master...

I've got... to tell... every one...!!
M-Must... tell... Master Shi...
and Issa... kun... Da... raku...
They're late... I know they both wanted to see Match Three.
...
Flicker

We shall now commence Match Three!!
Akira Ryôji of Squad One
versus
Hibiki Masamune of Squad Six!

kid.
Yo,
Wazup, sempai?

Competitor Data ~Battle Record to Date~



Yume Lan-Lan

Currently with Squad Nine, Lan-Lan is a former squad zero member. She has a bright, cheery personality—and a great body, that's muscular and yet still shapely. Not one to rely on weapons, she engages in direct physical attacks, specializing in underhanded moves like the one she used to trap Iori. Even so, she was still unable to defeat her.

VS

Kazuma Issa

Exempt from the preliminaries, Issa enters the tournament at the main. Acquaintances of old with Lan-Lan, he suffers her taunting at the start of the match, but then displays his captain's strength and defeats her at a instant. Back in the old Squad Zero days, they were apparently close as superior and subordinate — or perhaps the tormented older brother and cheeky younger sister.

Jin Kanjuro

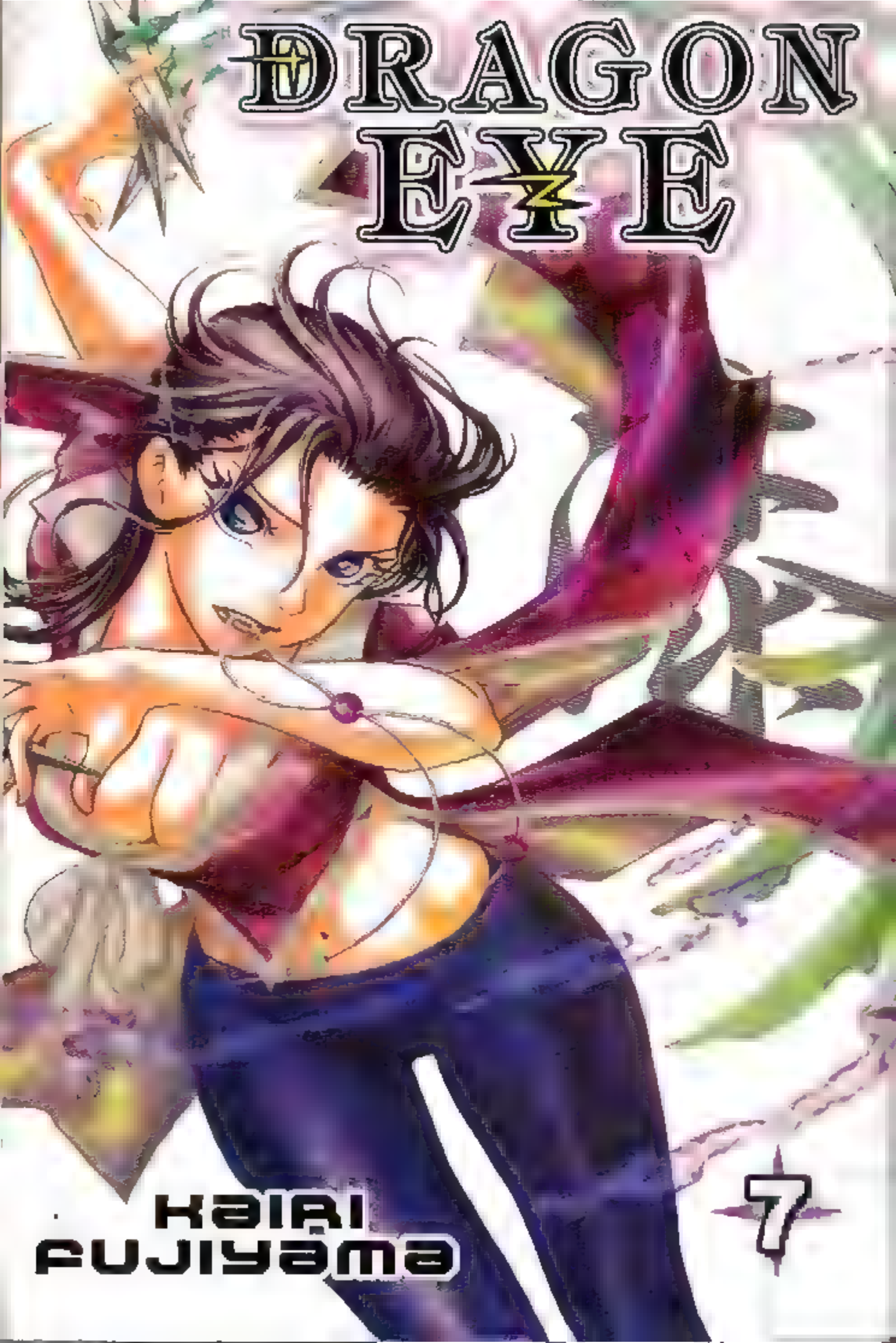
A member of the spectator-only Squad Seven, he keeps his head covered with a scarf at all times, and seems expressionless except for his strident attitude. In his match against Sudō, he casts spells without any spellcasting tools and defeated the Squad One powerhouse with a single blow, suggesting he is quite formidable himself. The secret to his power appears to lie in the tattoos peeking through.

VS

Sudo Hajime

A member who is a third seated within Squad One, Sudō wears a mask over the front that is said to be the mark of a third seated officer. He has at least captain-level strength. However, his lack of knowledge and experience against spells appears him to be a weak fighter, proving that in Mugen, spellcasters are to be feared over anyone but whom information is scarce.

DRAGON EYE



KAIRI FUJIYAMA

7

= Dragon Eye =

Kairi Fujiyama

6 years ago
the Akuma Clan

7

龍眼

Mission ⓪ Twenty
Mikuni Entered
5

Mission ① Twenty-One
Despicable!
51

Mission ② Twenty-Two
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97

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Finalist Contestants
143

Extras
189

Match Three,
Akira Ryôji of Squad One
versus
Hibiki Masamune of Squad Six!
whooo
whooo
whooo

roar

roar

AKIRA!!

Mission • Twenty-Three

Finalist Candidates

Ah, yes, milady
Oy! Are you not a fellow warrior!!?
Are you not the least bit interested in the warriors of other lands!?
No, Takamaru?
...Takamaru?
What a hubbub.
Indeed. I have come all the way here to see him.
The one you were mentioning back home?
in "Captain Sakuraba of Mikuni."
Interested I am, milady.
Not at all!
You are so knowledgeable.
When I was a kid, there was an expression, "To the East is Sakuraba."
I have heard he is the sole disciple of Akashi Gin'ei, he who gained fame during the Great Battles.
I had hoped for a chance to spar with him, but...
!
In that case, you ought to watch this match closely.

For Captain Sakuraba has high expectations of both of them.
三門武相里子
執行部代表 警戒組委
What excitement.
Is it for that taller child?
Yes. He is Akira Ryôji, a member of my squad,
and currently the most highly anticipated VIUS in our city.
執行部代表
And what is your opinion?
He is definitely talented.
And make no mistake, he'll probably become an important pillar supporting Mikuni, one day.

You think?
We seem to be running into each other a lot these days.
And it also seems neither of us can rise up...
without settling things between us first
whoomp
toom

klong
bong
klong
klong
So how does it feel to face off against your former comrade?
You've always been indifferent about everything.
Of course you don't feel anything.
Eh, whatever.
Oh, right... that's true.
I've always gone above and beyond in completing my missions!
武相亜子
Whether it's work... or your companions...

ズゥゥ‥
hoist
‥ン
without ‥playing any emotion.
Mastering pretty much everything you did‥
You've been that way since before you joined us.
release
oomph
You really rub me the wrong way, kid!

crouch
I'm going to use this to show you the true VIUS way.
That's the point.
chatter
chatter
It's huge!
What is that!?
that big thing is nothing but a handicap?
You know that, in this tight space,
rummage
Fine, bring it on.
flap

Voosh

Voosh

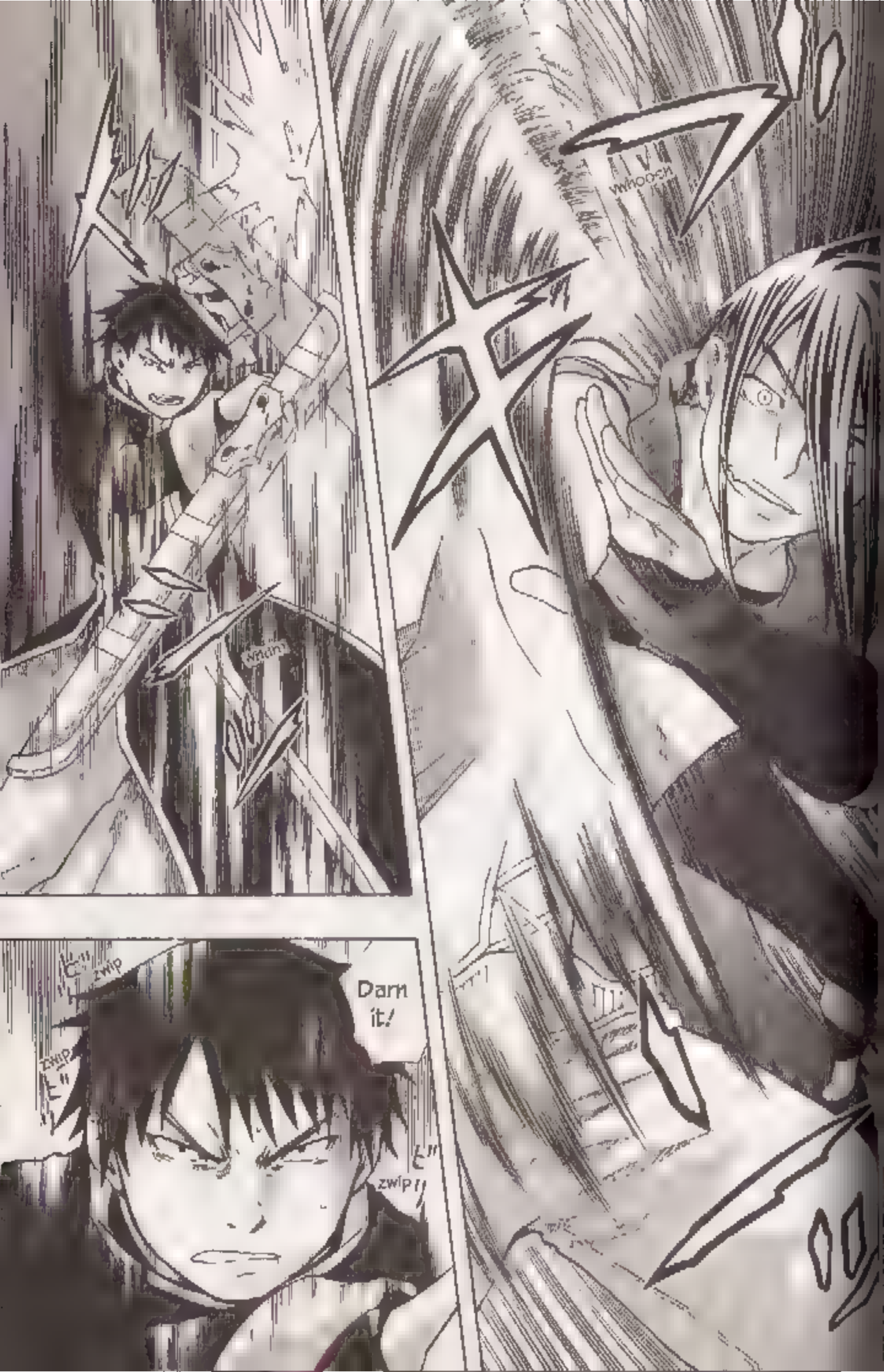
BEGIN!!

launch

klaak
Whoa

sidsh
thud
thud
thud
thud
His opponent's Fierce attacks with such a gigantic weapon?
But can he really adequately block
Wow...
...
whoo
pin

WHOOSH
snatch
whir whir
slam


whoosh
wrath
zwip
zwip
zwip
Darn it!

the Akashi School's secret move, the Great Central Spiral!!?
Don't tell me that's...
He swings that huge thing around like it weighs nothing!
Woww...
When in the world did he...
Once mastered, I heard it also enables one to evade most physical attacks.
An incredible and super-secret move developed by Akashi Gin'ei. One learns to make one's power flow like water, making even giant weapons feel as if they're as light as the wind...
But I thought Sakuraba was the only one to have been taught it...?
Say again?
even though he picked it up on his own...
I believe Akira taught himself through observation. However,
You are correct. The real thing is much greater.

As a move, it is quite polished and complete.
He's also probably the only one who can take borrowed wisdom this far.
SWOOOSH

What *pinpoint accuracy, considering the size of that thing.

roar

roar

At this rate, I'm going to lose from sheer weight disparity.

Maybe I should just swipe his weapon...

He's not even scraping the walls or floor!

Even though his speed is increasing...

Ugh!

roar

roar

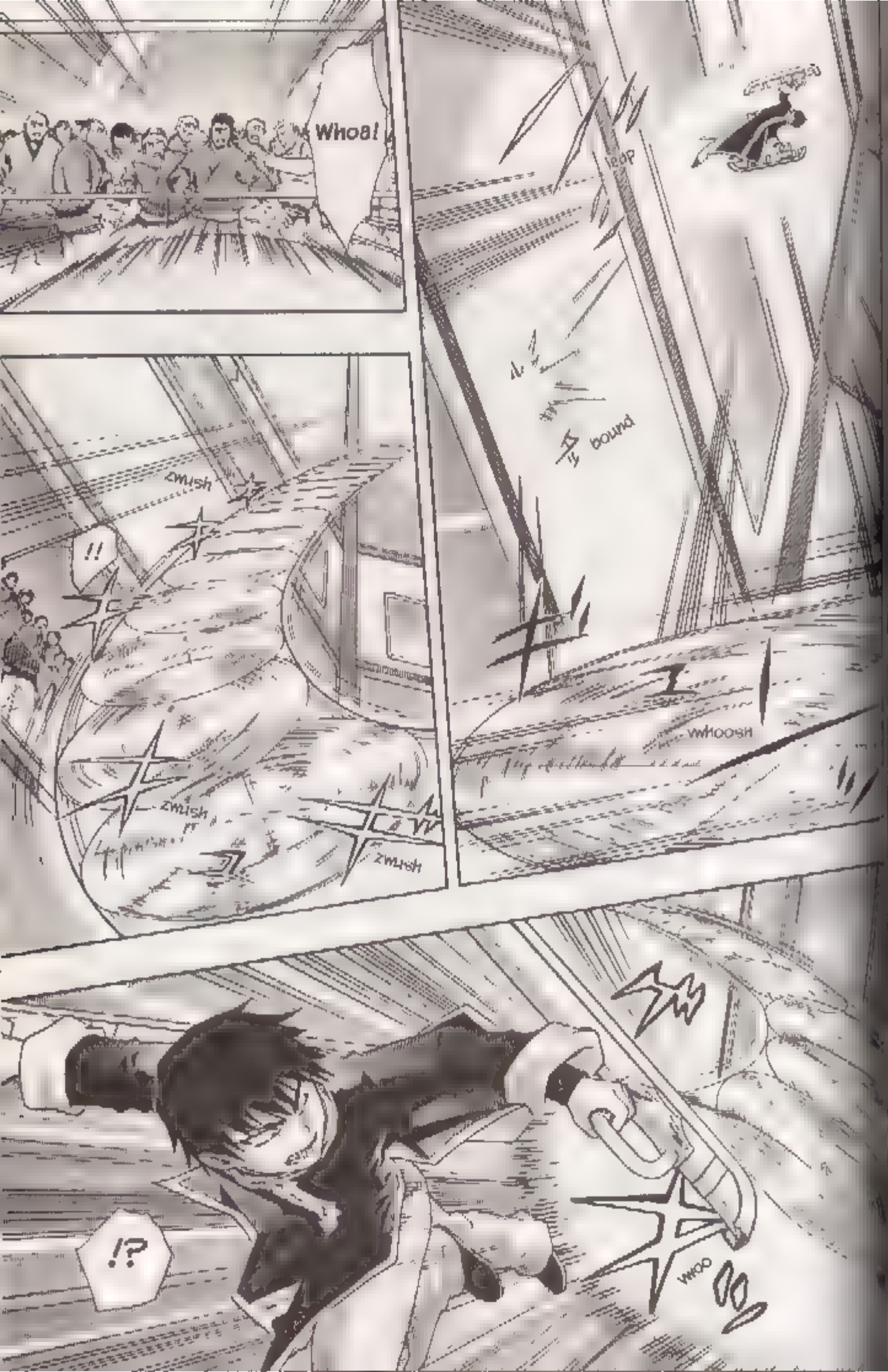
yell

swish

swoosh...

I'm going to use this to show you the true VIJS way.
Feh.
My Branched Fangs are enough!!
slash
His ability to rapidly adapt is a real bother.
He's starting to get used to my movements.
kaching
thwack
thwack
klang
!!
Time to change it up!!
wham
whoosh

Ha ha!!
ヒリ
zwip
ヒリ
zwip
ヒリ
zwip
ugh!
Isn't this fun, Hibiki!!?


Whoa!
zwish
!!
zwish
zwish
bound
vwhoosh
!?
whoo

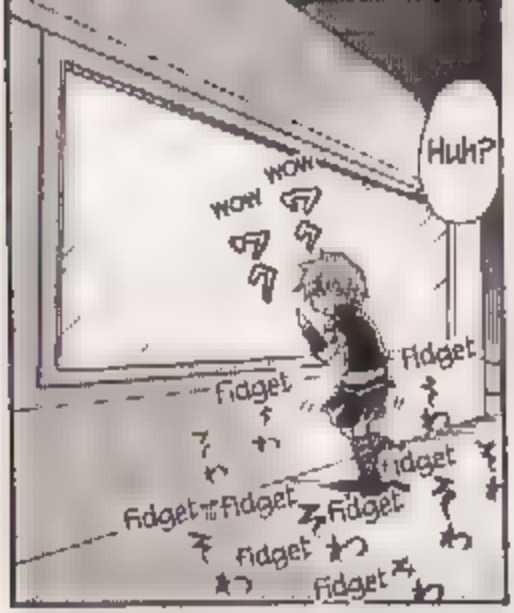
Feh!
blur
twirl
twirl
swish
grab
Hah!!

glance
!
Shoot!!

clutch

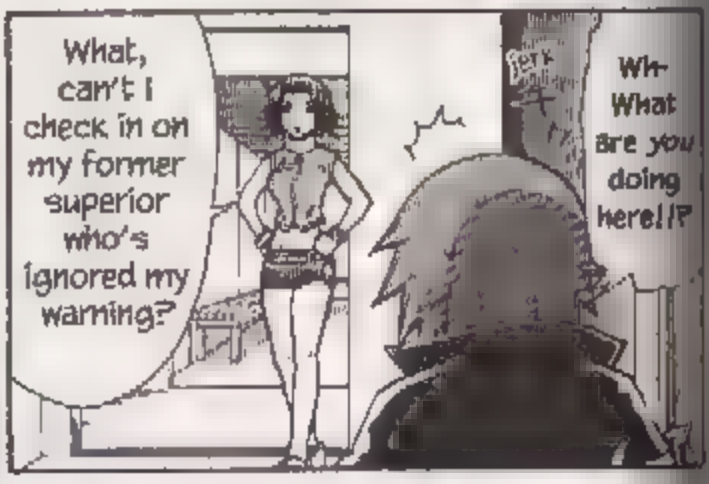
press
creak
press
Whoa!!
Please be at ease. The viewing panes are reinforced with spells.
They will not shatter.
zizzle zizzle
I'm sure he knows that, the fool...
wh-wham
...Amazing!!!

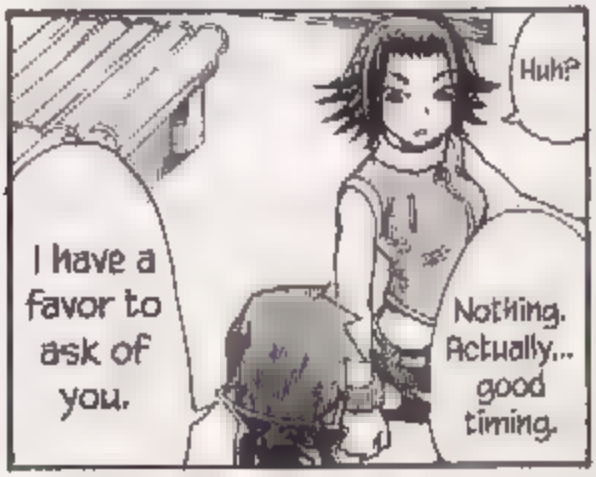
That throwing move just now...
Akashi School Scythe Move, "Great Tiger Claw Wheel."
Unbelievable how much he's managed to glean...
WOW
WOW
WOW
WOW
Heh heh
Cooool!

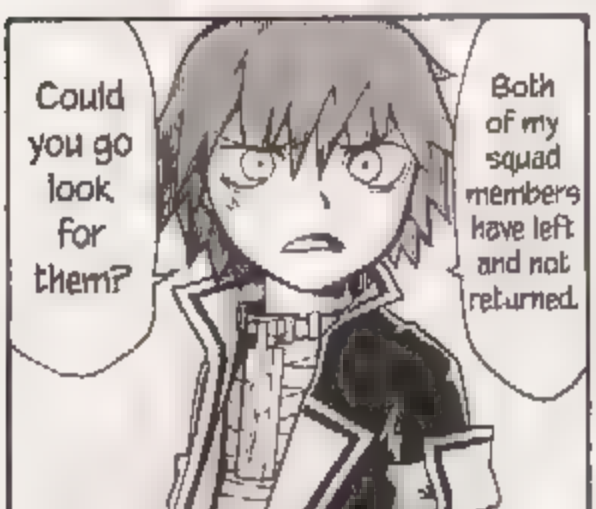

Huh?
WOW
WOW
Fidget
Fidget
Fidget
Fidget
Fidget
Fidget
Fidget
Fidget

Knock
Knock
Cap'n!
Why are you all fidgety?

I feel bad for the other boy.
He might seem wild and rowdy, but his attacks are almost disgustingly precise.
But, man, I'm so glad I didn't draw Akira.


What, can't I check in on my former superior who's ignored my warning?
Wh-What are you doing here!?


I have a favor to ask of you.
Huh?
Nothing. Actually... good timing.


Could you go look for them?
Both of my squad members have left and not returned.

I don't. He didn't hold back against me!
Maybe he's just not into it?

What? Just let them come back on their own.
One of them is a contestant. I think the other one is probably lost.
Oh! You mean that Yukimura fellow and that little girl!
I don't think they're lost.
I think they might be getting their grind on somewhere.
Yeah, they might not come back.
?
...grinding meat!!?
Knowing you, Captain, they probably got disgusted with you and ran off somewhere together.
A-ha ha ha

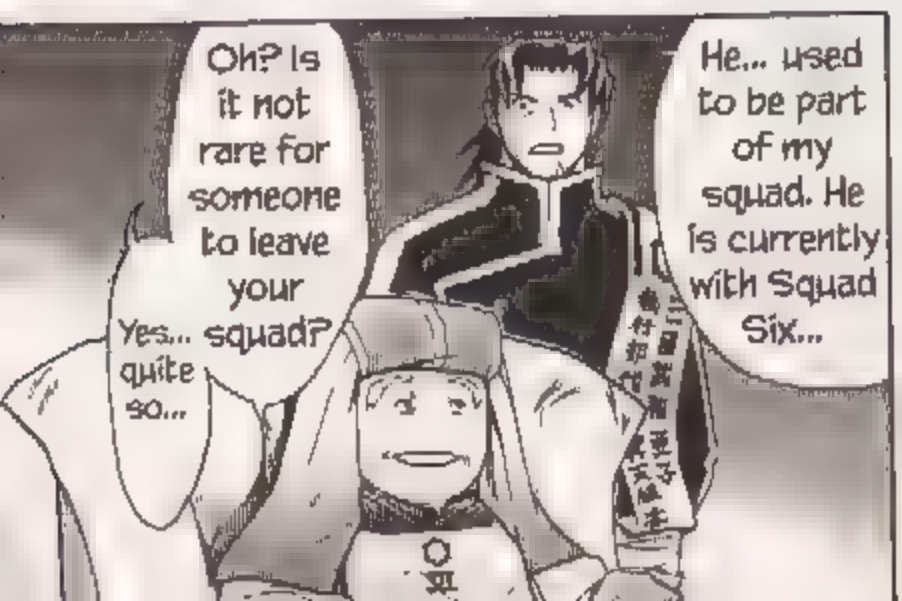
Let's go, Leila, I've got pull with Squad Five.
Thank you. I do not want to go down with him.
I am completely revolted by Issa-kun now, after watching his match.
Leila, nice escape.
!-I'm kidding, OK? Don't take me so seriously!
Do you take pleasure in mocking me!?
Well...
gloom
Whoa!
!?
roar
But I do think they're just watching the matches from other seats.
All right, I'll go take a look.
They both said they were coming back here!
There's no way

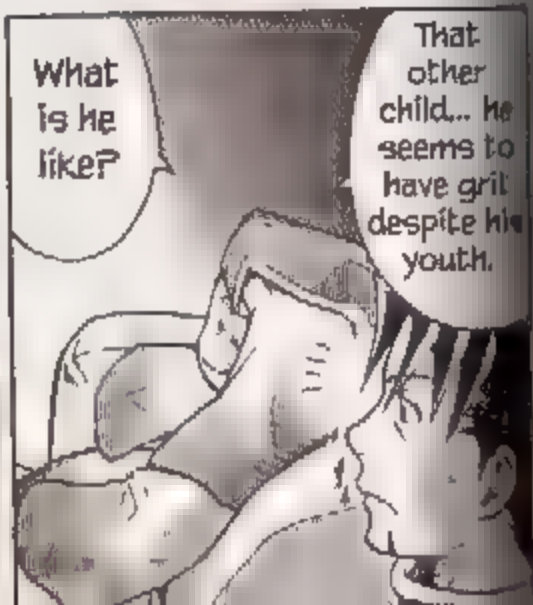
Whoa
rise
reel
What's the matter? You still got plenty of fight in you, no?
drip
drip...

...unk, his bad "habit" is coming out.

.....

!?


Oh? Is it not rare for someone to leave your squad?
Yes... quite so...
He... used to be part of my squad. He is currently with Squad Six...


What is he like?
That other child... he seems to have grit despite his youth.

...It appeared to me that he quit.
!?
Oh/ So he lost the championship round, eh.
Actually, no. He participated once before, and made it to the final round.
Is this his first tournament?
This is the first time in five years that he has entered the tournament.
In my opinion, he is one of this year's possible finalists.
clunk
clatter

Shoot, I really should start heading back myself...
However, I can't believe I've gone once around without finding her...
This place is built with a hexagonal layout, so it's like a maze...
But it's also possible Leila's already returned...
I ought to go back
.....
I'll keep looking until the very last minute.
She gave it her all in the preliminaries. I'd like her to see my match.

...I doubt she made it all the way out here, but...
Leila!!

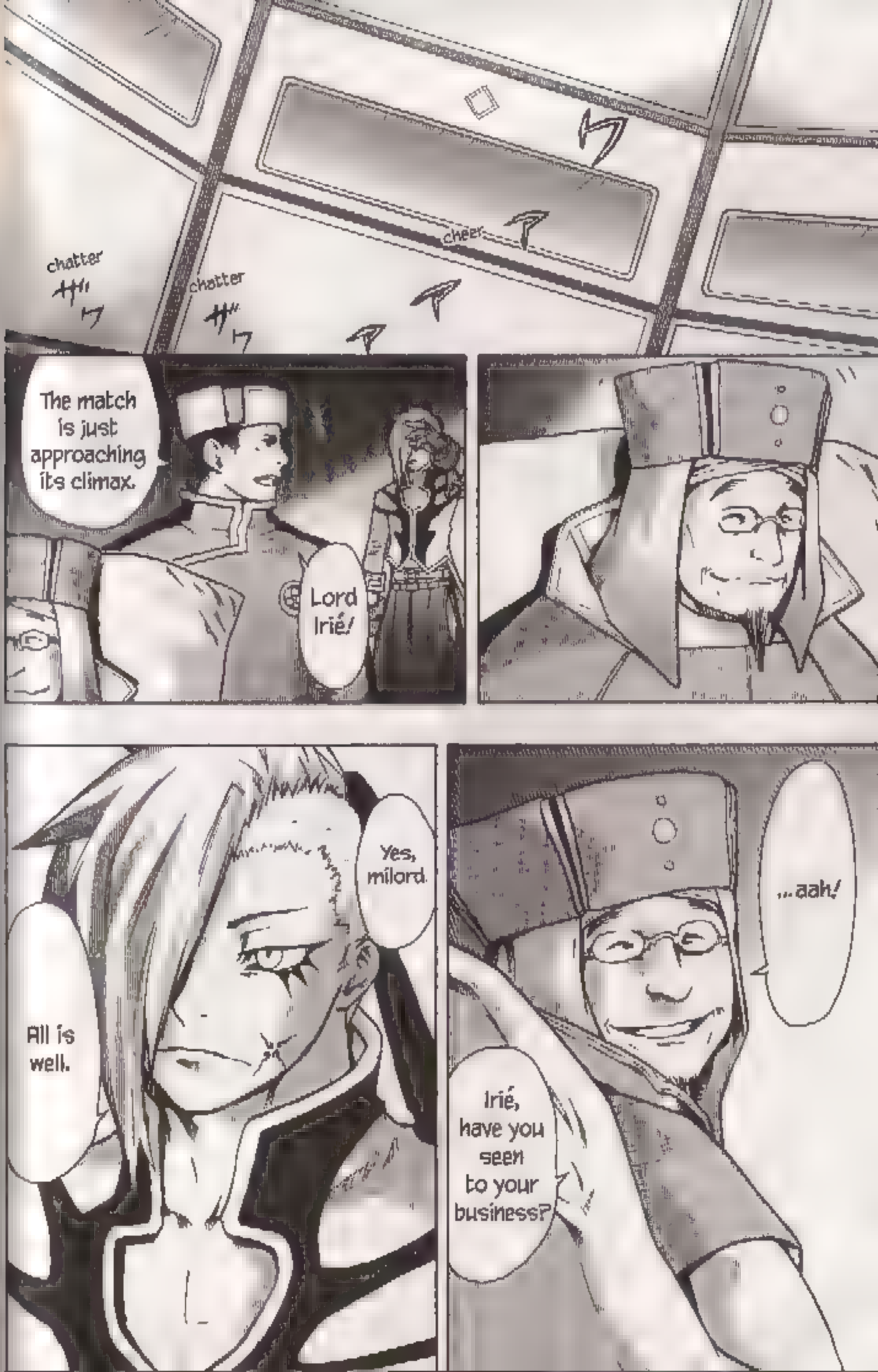
Perfect. I found her collapsed, like this.
Are you an acquaintance of this lady?
What happened !!?
!?
Leila, hang in there!!
Kneel
Why, how...!?
Fzz...

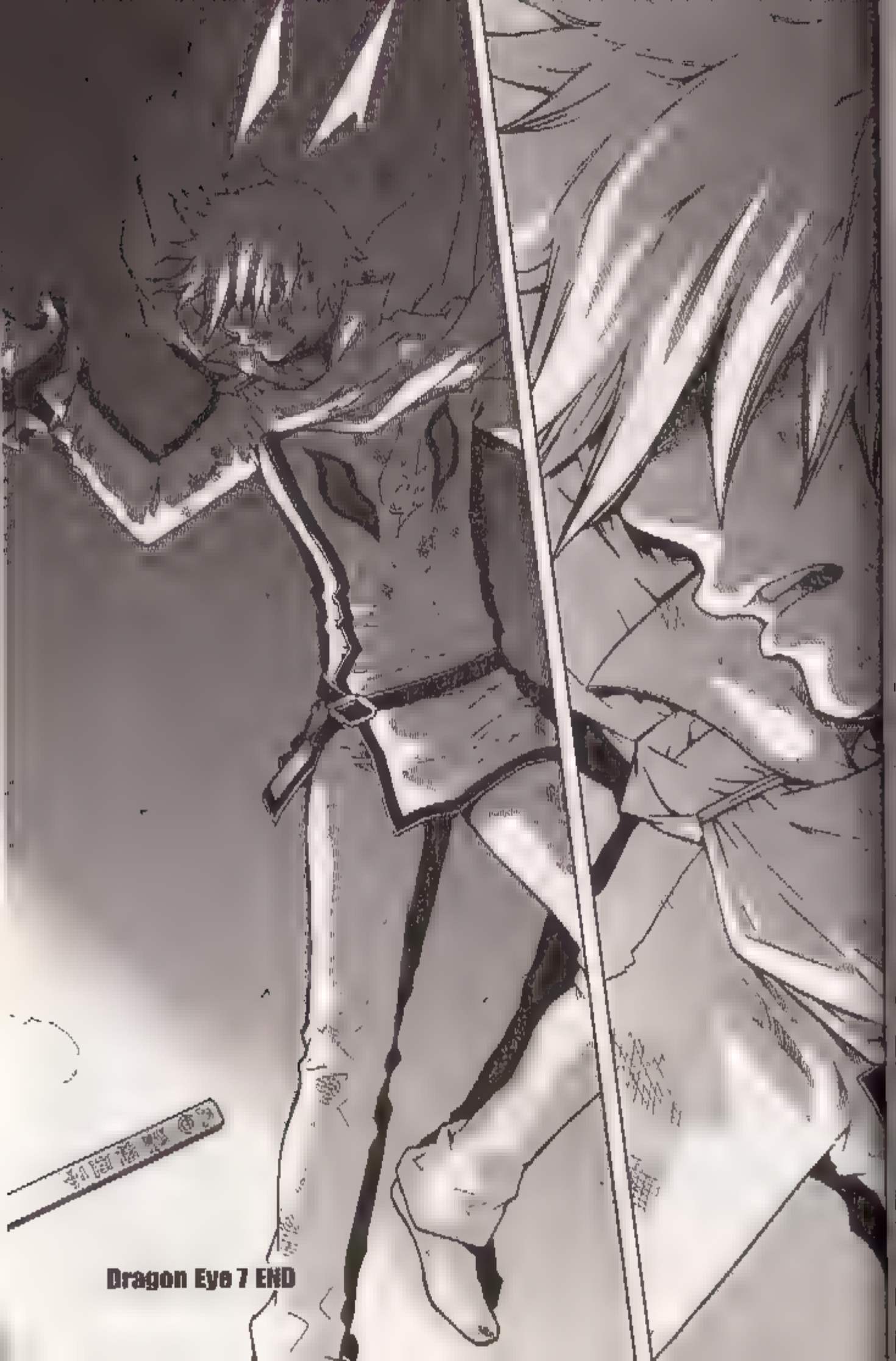
clod
You!! You're not from Mikuni, are you!!
He's using spells without casting tools...
He's a High Master!!?
throb
!!
I will not let you interfere.
Sheesh... it seems this city's citizens have no manners.

swish...
roar
Shadow Flock Strike!!
voosh
thump
clench

Pulse
Pulse
How dare you!!
We are called Daraku!!
supposedly went by the name "Daraku."
And the one who gave her the tainted medicine...

Ahhhh!!


chatter
chatter
cheer
The match is just approaching its climax.
Lord Irié!
Yes, milord.
All is well.
...aah!
Irié, have you seen to your business?



Dragon Eye 7 END

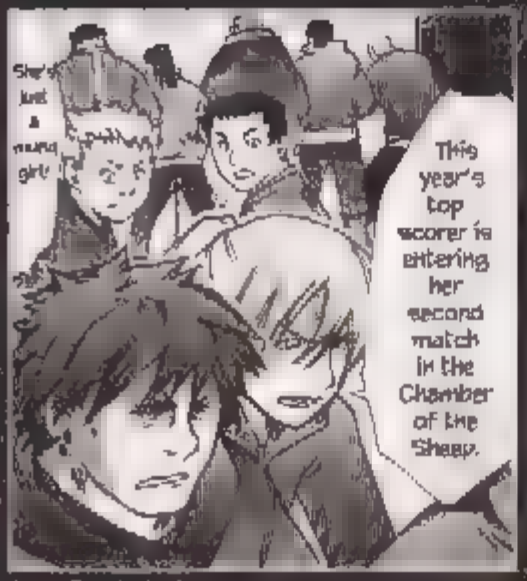
Akira Ryoji

The most distinguished warrior of Squad One. His super-confident attitude is justified by his brilliant abilities. His asking Sakuraba to nominate him for captain-elect and his squabbling with Hibiki originate from his sense of VIUS spirit and pride.
but that will be explained further in the next volume.

VS

Hibiki Masamune

A former Squad One member who is currently with Squad Six. Has been on bad terms with Akira since his Squad One days, and even now their run-ins always end in trouble... or rather, he seems to have a personality that leads him to butt heads with everyone he encounters. In his battle skills, not only is he gifted, but he also adapts rapidly, has sharp instincts, and is very industrious.



Miscellaneous - The Gallery

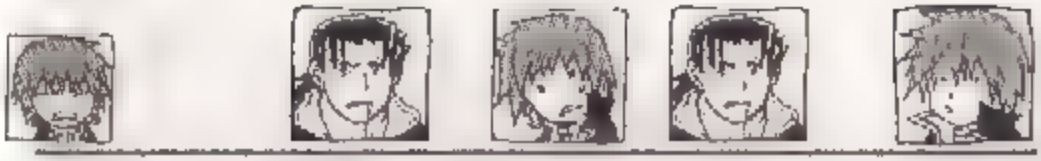
Even in the midst of the open exhibition, the daily grind of Dracule elimination goes on for the VIUS. In other words, the only spectators in the gallery other than contestants are those who are off-duty. Incidentally, Hyûga is able to attend not because he is off-duty but because he apparently traded shifts so he could watch Isca's matches.

Wow, we're already up to Volume 7!!
Thank you so much for supporting me for so long, everyone!

When the release month of each volume approaches,
I always start feeling the pressure of graphic novel production.
And each and every time, I engage in discussions
with my editor S.G. about what to draw on the cover.
The problem is that we almost always
have slightly differing opinions.
Now that I think of it, we subtly disagreed when I proffered
"What about Sakuraba and Issa?" for Volume 4's cover.
It was modest.
And my editor's opinion was also modest,
so it fittingly ended up being just Issa. Fittingly, huh...

Well, our opinions matched for the next two covers,
so all is well.
Please buy the next volume, too!!
Fujiyama

My Very Nice Staff
[Scissors] Uemura Erika
[Rock] Kamimura
[Paper] Ueda Satomi



Those were questions already answered last time! You don't get it at all!

I have work to do, Fool. What, you want to know more about us? OK, I'll tell you. The biggest idiot here is Issa. His mental age is only 13. His specialty is shirking his duty. And if you want to join VIUS, get on my good side. That's it.

Hold up! Er, this is Shuri'chi-kun, who will be my assistant today. Sorry, but I haven't been able to catch either Leila or Yukimura all day.

Hey, what's going on? If you don't need me, I'm going to get going.

Wow, we're already up to our Fourth Q&A corner! Thanks for all of your correspondence! We're going to hammer them out this time, including a bunch we couldn't cover in the last volume!

Yup, yup! Spell gadgets are weapons and protective gear that have been imbued with spells. My wrist guards contain Spell Shield power

Aren't your wrist guards also spell gadgets?

I'll start with the first question! By "those square things," you must mean my wrist guards. They're like little shields.

Dragon Eye is super-cool!!! So here are my questions!! (1) What are those square things strapped to Issa's arms? (2) That dog seems to possess incredible powers, so can't you enlist him? Or is that not allowed? Tako-san

You're more passionate about this than your real job...

I'm back! Uh... "I name things and people as they come to me. In general,

(He did *not* just say that...)

You really have trouble going with the flow, eh? Fine, I'll go ask Fujiyama. Shlep shlep

Back-stories...? But you usually get named by your parents.

Are there any back-stories to the names of any of the characters or weapons? Zukabu-san

I think they're still embedded in the walls of a sewer tunnel somewhere. Also, I don't know if the dog can enlist or not, but we're so accustomed to him that I feel like he's already one of us.

Now that you mention it, I haven't seen you wearing them lately.

You love me? Aww, you make me blush.. My spell Fetters are Mikuni VIUS-issued loaners, so the one-eyed man definitely didn't have those. But he might have had something similar.

Issa-kun, you say that the Dragon Eye would run amok if you didn't have the spell Fetters, but did the one-eyed man who gave you the Dragon Eye also need spell Fetters? I-love-issa-san

My parents named me!!

In terms of backstories, he also says, "I think I debated whether to call Sakuraba Kazushi or not." Aren't you glad it ended up as Shun'ichi!

Only a day...?

There are 3-second names, one-day names, and one-week names," he says. Incidentally, Yukimura's, Rol's, Hibiki's, and Hyûga's were 3-second names, Sakuraba's and Yume's were one-day names, and Leila's and mine were apparently one-week names. How long it took seems proportional to the profundity of that character!!

That's not a move.

Well then, yours is "Black Lanky"!

Those are just their special moves aimed at you. I know one of yours. It's "Secret Art: Extort and Run"!

What a difficult question! I'm pretty sure Leila was taught many moves directly by her scary teacher Master Shimon of the Sacred Blade, Shimon School. I think Yukimura has developed ten or so moves using his father's sword design as his inspiration. With regard to favorite or special moves, I would say Leila's is throttling and Yukimura's is single-stroke assassination.

Everyone in VIUS has unique moves, but about how many of them do they have?? And what are each of their favorite or special moves?? Hara Yutô-san

Question! Do all VIUS live in dorms? What are the dorms like? Ryoko Ryuto-san

Most of the time, the captain picks the design!

Mask veil design varies between each squad, but even within a single squad, there can be 2 or 3 different kinds. I think there are about 25 total styles among the nine squads?

I'll have Shun'ichi-kun answer this one!

How many different versions or types of mask veils are there? Some appear to be attached to visors, right? They're so fashionable I look forward to seeing new ones each volume. Sora-san

Nice question. That's classified information... but I do believe they have a few special powers.

Do the Iguanido have any special abilities or battle skills? Gongen-san

actually get this question a lot. Le. "Ran-san has perfect abilities, personality, and beauty. What are her 3-sizes? Akamizu-san." "I would like to know all of the girls' 3-sizes. Please ask them, Issa Kumako-san." "Please tell me Aoi-san's 3-sizes and if she currently has a lover can't die until I find out. Nashigoren-san"

You really said that?

Issa-kun, in volume 5's Q&A corner, you described Leila with "she's got big breasts." So now I'm obsessed with knowing Leila's "3-sizes" (bust, waist, and hip measurements). Also, please give me the stats for Aoi and other female characters too. Kanikama-san

Stop giving unnecessary details! Any VIUS member can apply to enter the dorms. They are located on headquarters grounds, near Center Hall. It's a homey, relaxing place.

I've got a dorm room! Although right now, I sleep in a secret little room that I really like. Shuriichi used to commute from his private residence, but right now he crashes at headquarters. For certain reasons!

(Watch it!/)

Thanks for coming. You see, I want to take your measurements so that we can get your disguise for the next mission made. (measure) *click-click-click*

You really called her here!/?

What was it you wanted to discuss?

Yeah, yeah. You go ask.

All right, I'll go ask her!

They mostly ask about Aoi. And there's no way you'd know.

A

* Incidentally, in the July 2006 issue of Sirius, Leila's 3-sizes were listed as 32-22-32.

I forgot to ask if she had a lover or not...

We've been played.

Rock-Paper-... Scissors!!

(Ten minutes later)

!!?

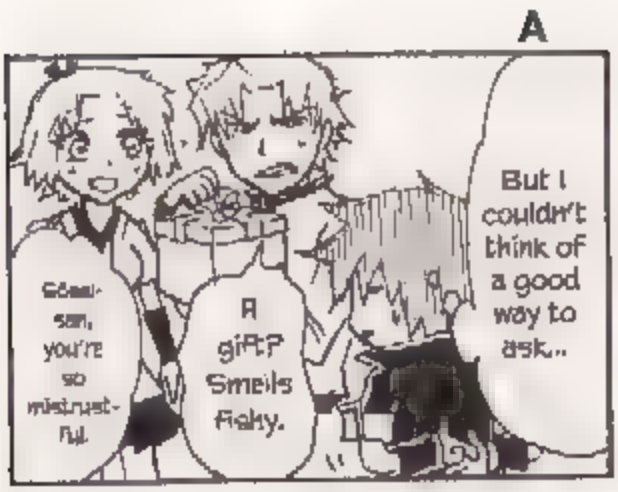
U-uh, sure.

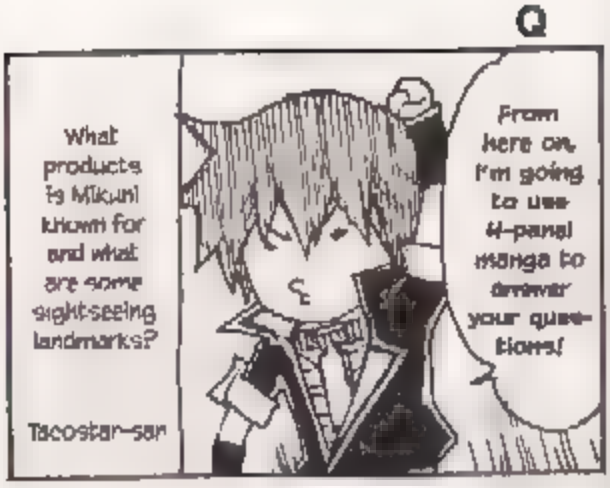
Well then, if you win against me in a game of rock-paper-scissors, you may measure me. But if I win, you must do as I say, OK? And please join us, Sakuraba-san.

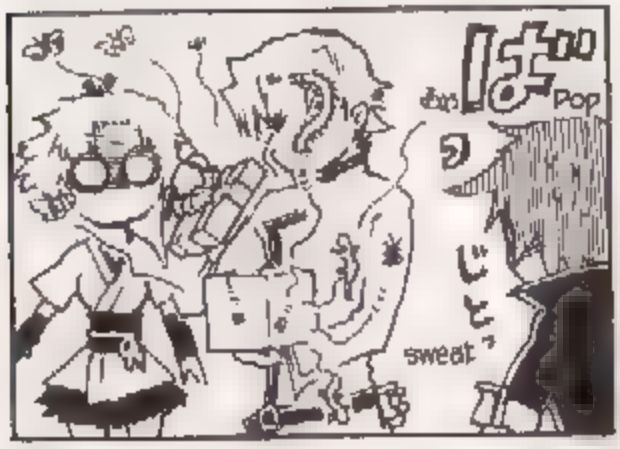
.....

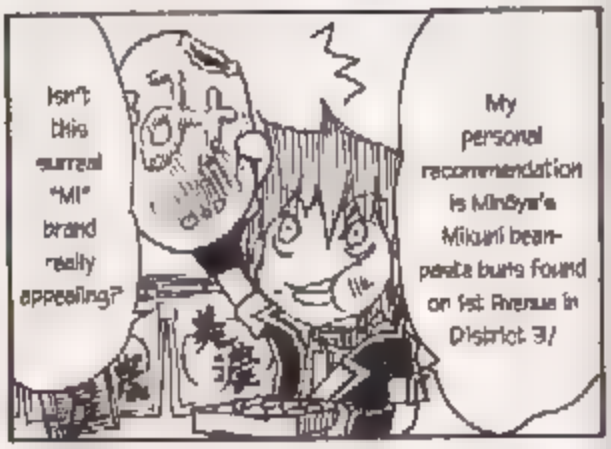
(Ulp) Uh... very form-fitting, figure-flattering clothes.

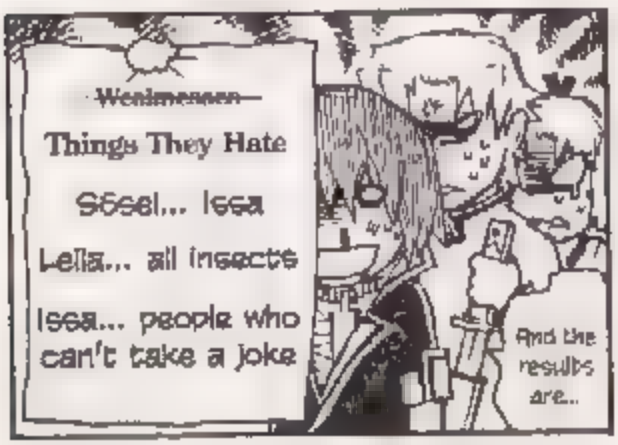
Oh my, what kind of outfit is it?


A
Cosa-san, you're so mistrustful.
A gift? Smells fishy.
But I couldn't think of a good way to ask...

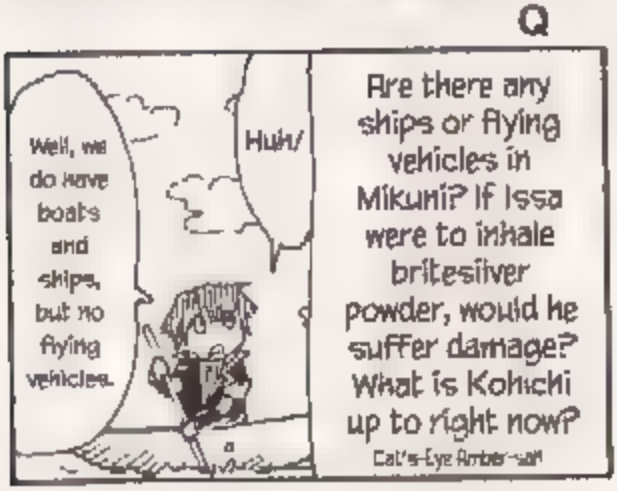

Q
What products is Mikuni known for and what are some sightseeing landmarks?
Tacostar-san
From here on, I'm going to use 4-panel manga to answer your questions!

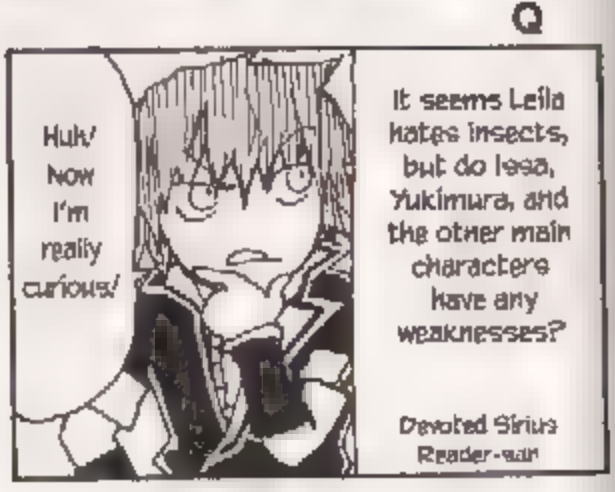

Pop
sweat

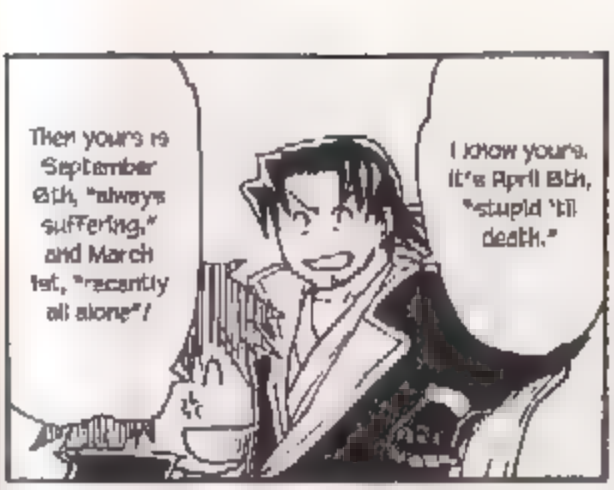

A
Isn't this surreal "MI" brand really appealing?
My personal recommendation is Minoya's Mikuni bean-paste buns found on 1st Avenue in District 3!


~~Weaknesses~~
Things They Hate
Cosel... Issa
Leila... all insects
Issa... people who can't take a joke
And the results are...

You can see the whole southern half of Mikuni from up here! But I want to keep its exact location a secret...
And this is my choice for sightseeing landmark!


Q
Huh!
Well, we do have boats and ships, but no flying vehicles.
Are there any ships or flying vehicles in Mikuni? If Issa were to inhale britesilver powder, would he suffer damage? What is Kohichi up to right now?
Cat's-Eye Amber-san

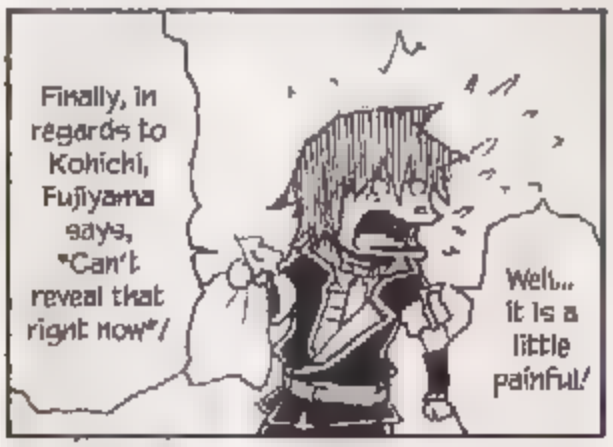

Q
Huh! Now I'm really curious!
It seems Leila hates insects, but do Issa, Yukimura, and the other main characters have any weaknesses?
Devoted Sirius Reader-san


Then yours is September 6th, "always suffering," and March 1st, "recently all alone"!
I know yours. It's April 8th, "stupid 'til death."

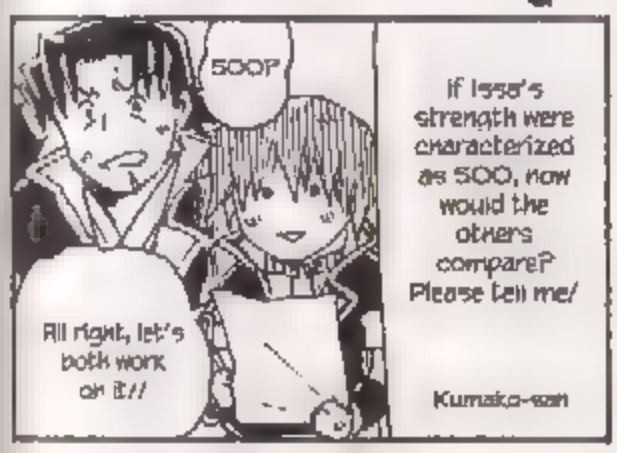
A

inhale
inhale
I wonder
And something about bribes/ver powder? And me?
Bribes/ver powder

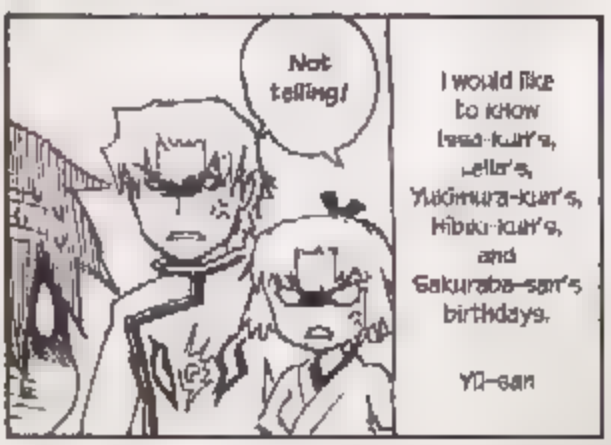
* They're usually really close.


Finally, in regards to Kohichi, Fujiyama says, "Can't reveal that right now"!
Well... it is a little painful!

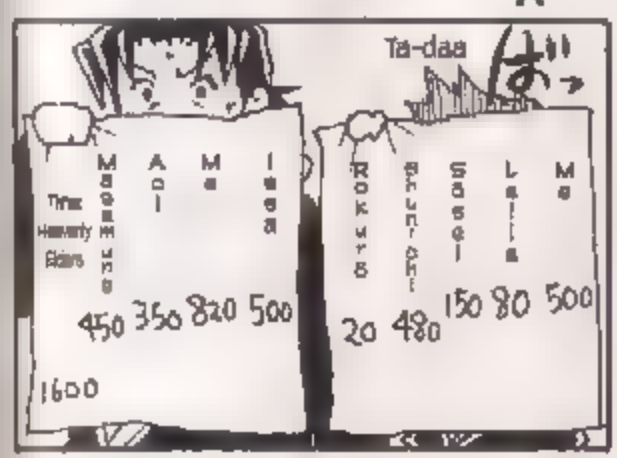
Q


SOOP
All right, let's both work on it!!
If Isse's strength were characterized as 500, how would the others compare? Please tell me!
Kumako-san

Q


Not telling!
I would like to know Issa-kun's, Lelle's, Yuuimura-kun's, Hibiki-kun's, and Sakuraba-san's birthdays.
Yu-san

A


Ta-daaa
Masamune
Aoi
Mo
Issa
Rokuro
Shun-chi
Sasei
Lelle
Mo
The Heavenly Stars
450 350 820 500
20 480 150 80 500
1600

A

Hibiki's birthday? Hmm... I think it's sometime in January...?
What begrudging folk they are! Fine, I'll just ask Shun'ichi!!

再録! Dragon Eye Q&A Encore

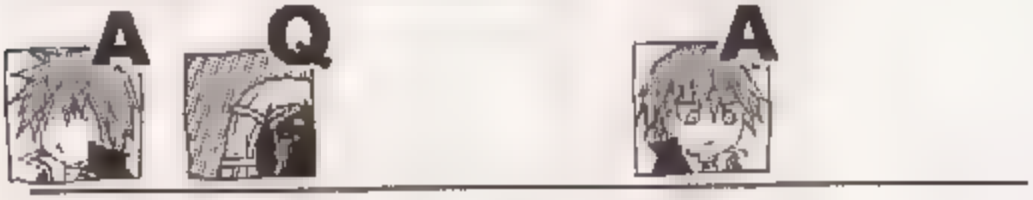
This volume, we've got a second Q & A for you!! The following is a reprint of the Dragon Eye Q & A Corner that appeared in the September 2006 issue of *Monthly Shônen Sirius*, by popular demand!

Hello. I am a *Dragon Eye* reader. After hearing about the Q & A corner, I decided to submit a question. How was the Dragon Eye transplanted? And where did the surgery take place?
Matsucha-san

Whoa! Core questions from the get-go! My age, huh. . don't know my own birth date, so I've never counted... but I'm pretty sure it's more than what I can count with both hands! And regarding the man with the Dragon Eye, I befriended him many years before I came to Mikuri. It's a long story, so I think Fujiyama will cover it at some point. All right, next...

Exactly how old is Issa? And how did Issa encounter the Dragon Eye-bearing man that Leila had also met?

Yo! We'll be starting with a question for me.



Oh yeah, I do, I do! I bathe with them on! And... civil what? What's that?

Hello. Do you take baths with the spell fetters on, Issa? And are the VIUS civil servants?
Fuku-san

Hmm!? Seems y'all are real curious about that Eye! Well, . guess since this series is named after it, it's inevitable! Just between you and me, not just anybody can transplant or receive the Dragon Eye. As far as I know, there is only one surgeon around who can do it. I wonder where that person is now...? Great questions! OK, moving on!

A question for Fujiyama, hun. What a bother... Well, I'm sure it's me, but...

Hello. I like Hibiki, and my friend K likes Issa, but which character does Fujiyama-sensei enjoy drawing the most?
Sakata-san

Zzz. Oops, I was about to fall asleep! Next question!

Issa-kun, please don't give random answers! Uhh, the VIUS are soldiers attached to Central VIUS Headquarters, but their costs are defrayed using the taxes paid by that municipality's citizens. Mikuri City is a part of the larger organization known as the VIUS Alliance, and each member city has its own governing body. So as employees of that organization, , think the VIUS can be considered fine civil servants indeed!

Quit writing things off! Thanks for your question, Kenji-kun. The spellcasters that appeared in Mission 4 are actually loaner sorcery specialist members from another squad. They participate and provide support on special missions. In particular, the ones in Mission 4 frequently help out Squad Five, so they seem to have a strong, mutually trusting bond with Captain Kiura.

Aak! This question came with illustrations, thanks! Uhh, the old Squad Zero members, huh... I'm sure they are currently with other squads. And what was that about Yukimura? Well, never mind. Waak!

Why was Sôsei originally part of the spellcaster-heavy Squad Five? And what happened to the Squad Zero members before Leila?
Katô Kenji-san

(Five minutes later) All right, I went and asked! What? "I feel like there was a character I was looking forward to drawing, but I don't think this character is going to make an appearance for another one or two years. My memory might fade by then." What a negative fellow! Let's ignore him and move on. ...Wait, so it's not me!?

I believe my pay gets deposited every month into an account at the Niko-niko Bank in District One... but how much was it? I'm pretty sure squad captains are paid quite a bit, but it never accumulates. Why is that!!? Oh, and... Engel? What's that? Uh... hmm, if you mean Angels, I think I've got 4 Silver Angels. I'll earn a Gold Angel with just one more Silver Angel, but... it's still a long way off!

Hello. I have a lot of questions regarding Dragon Eye, but one in particular is bothering me. How much salary do Iesa and the others get? I would also like to know Iesa's Engel coefficient.
Cat's-Eye Amber-san

There you have it! Got that!?

Hold it right there! Don't answer questions you don't know anything about, Kazuma-kun!? Hey, hey, if I kept obsessing about being bald, prematurely or not,

Huh? What a difficult question. Kanikama's been smooth-scalped since the time I first met him. So it's probably premature...

Is Kajiyama bald? Is it premature balding? Or does he have a bushy, full head of hair?
Morning Banana-san

Deliberate before spending, eh!?

Iesa-kun, you spend without thinking too often! I am a new recruit, so I do not get paid much. However, headquarters covers the cost of weapons repair and battle uniforms, so I am not lacking for money.

That dog... we just call him "Dog." Although sometimes I just use "Hey you"... I suppose we should give him a proper name?! The Elder Vice-Directors used to be fierce warriors! Now they are in charge of cultivating and training young soldiers. They're really scary if you get them mad. Oops, out of space. That's all for now, so see you next time!

Like I said, you're all so nitpicky...!! Masuo!!

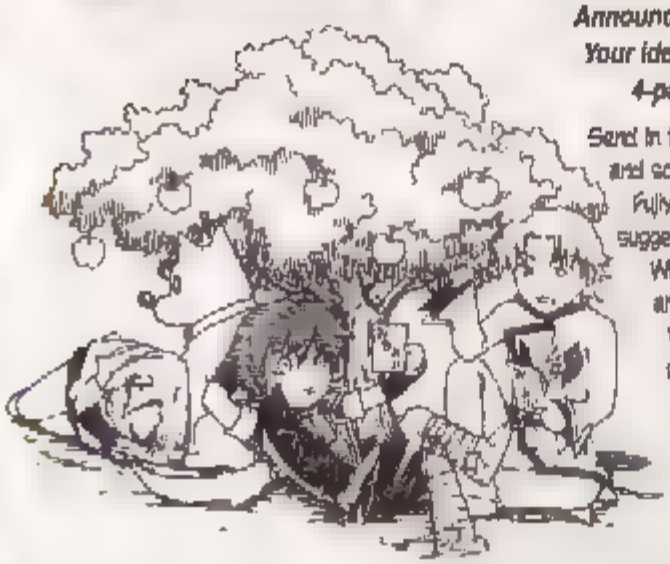
Does Kajiyama-san have a girlfriend?? What is the name of the dog? Have the Elder Vice-Directors ever fought? (Do they still fight?) Masuo-san

That's amazing, Kanikama! You're on par with *Sirius*'s chief editor! Well then, let's get to our last question!

I wouldn't be able to come up with such huge inventions! But in response to you, my heart is endlessly bushy and expansive!

Same as before,

[redacted]



Announcing new corner!! Your ideas can become 4-panel manga!

Send in the names of characters and scenarios you'd like to see. Fujiyama will turn interesting suggestions into 4-panel manga! What if Yukimura and the dog are put in a room together? What if Kajiyama and Isca started ballroom dancing!? Fujiyama will decide the outcomes!

Seeking Correspondence!

What to submit

In addition to your question(s) please send us your address, name (and a pen name, if you have one), age, school year (or type of work) and phone number or e-mail address. If your submission is printed, we will send you a small present.

Furthermore, please be aware that all submissions, including your personal information, will be handed over to the author, so send us your questions at your own risk.

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Attn: "*Dragon Eye* Q&A Corner"
or "*Dragon Eye* 4-panel manga"

Email:
sirius@kodansha.co.jp
(If you are e-mailing us your question(s), please write the Q&A corner name in the subject line.)

TRANSLATION NOTES

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Troop designation symbols, various pages

Most VIUS members wear their troop designations somewhere on their uniforms, and equipment and objects sometimes bear stamps as well. For example, on page 1, the sash tied to Sakuraba's sleeve depicts an archaic way of writing the number one, while Issa's veil bears an archaic character meaning the numeral zero.

Chamber of the Horse, Chamber of the Sheep, pages 16 and 19

The rooms where the exhibition tournament preliminary rounds are held appear to be named after the twelve Asian zodiac signs: Rat, Bull, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Boar.

Mikuni, Fifth VIUS City, page 22

We find out in volume 8 that there are currently six cities that make up the VIUS Alliance, and Mikuni is the fifth of these six cities. This probably also explains why the *kanji* for five appears on the side of the Central Hall (volume 1, page 6, panel 1). Interestingly, the Head Heavenly Elder's robe has the roman numeral VI emblazoned on it, perhaps making VIUS Central the sixth city...?

Tsuzumi hand drum, page 28

Emperor Jana of Kinshisen displays an object that looks like a *tsuzumi*, a Japanese hand drum. Consisting of an hourglasslike wooden frame with drum faces on either "base," or end, held taut by colorful braided cords that can be further tightened or loosened with one hand to change the pitch while the drum is being struck with the other hand, it is an instrument unique to Japan that is still used to this day in traditional Japanese music concerts and to accompany *Noh* and *Kabuki* plays. Curiously, Emperor Jana introduces his *tsuzumi*-like possession as his lady mother... and there are rumors he was born from the belly of a snake...

Kirin, page 50

The *kirin* is a mythological creature probably best known in modern times as the symbol of the Japanese brewery that also bears its name. It is commonly depicted as a horse-dragon hybrid, with dragon's head and scales standing on four hoofed legs with a horse's tail and either one or two horns. In the world of *Dragon Eye*, it appears that this fabulous beast has also been adopted as the symbol of the VIUS. Incidentally, back in volume 1, Fujiyama drew *kirin* on page 4.

Anadoren, page 63

A fictional energy drink invented by the author. Its name is a play on words, exploiting the similarity between the Japanese word meaning "despicable" and the hormone "adrenaline."

Non-edged weapons, page 72

Both regular VIUS training bouts and the exhibition tournament forbid the use of edged weapons and firearms. However, contestants may use their everyday bladed weapons as long as they are in their sheaths, or even if the edges have been covered.

Oshibori, page 93

Literally meaning "wrung out," *oshibori* are folded moistened hand towels (either hot or cold, usually the former in the winter and the latter in the summer) that Americans are most familiar with as something used to clean one's hands before eating at a Japanese restaurant. Here, Leila hands a damp towel to Issa for him to wipe off his sweat after his match against Lan-Lan, which at eating establishments is an etiquette no-no, although one is usually allowed to use like a napkin to wipe one's lips. (Hence, in Japan, you do not regularly see paper or cloth napkins except at a fast food chain or Western-style eatery.) Disposable non-cloth *oshibori* are gaining in popularity (and are considered more hygienic), and can be found not just in cafés and restaurants but also on airplanes, with take-out *bento* boxes, and even sold in packs and in bulk to the general public at drug stores.

Senpai, page 141

A term or title referring to someone more senior than oneself. Used most commonly in schools by lowerclassmen to refer to upperclassmen, it is also used in sport and club organizations, in the workplace, and, of course, by alumni, and also implies or acknowledges a mentoring or other close relationship. The word literally translates to "he who went before," and there is a mirror term, *kohai*, which means "he who goes after."

DRAGON EYE

KAORI YUKIMURA

Ballantine Books

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Aibiki, page 172

In Japanese, the homophone *aibiki can* refer to either a secret romantic rendezvous or a combination of ground beef and pork, leading to this comical exchange between Lan-Lan and Issa. As with many phonetic puns, there is no exact equivalent in English, so the translator has chosen to use the word "grind" for both its literal relevance to the latter and its slang illusion to the former.

Rock-Paper-Scissors, pages 189 and 192

A children's hand game that merely requires two or more people and a prize to be won, rock-paper-scissors is known by many different names (i.e. *jan-ken-pon* in Japanese) but there's only one way to play. On the chanted count, contestants throw out one hand with their fingers either clenched in a fist (rock), splayed palm up (paper), or a sideways V-sign (scissors). Rock defeats scissors (because it can smash scissors), paper defeats rock (because it can wrap around a rock), and scissors defeat paper (because they can cut paper). The winners of each round continue on until only one person is left.

Engel coefficient and angels, page 196

The Engel coefficient is an economic indicator that is defined as the proportion of (family) income that is spent on food. German statistician Ernst Engel, after whom the term is named, found that the lower a family's income is, the greater proportion of it is spent on food. The more one earns, the lower the number. Issa, however, misunderstands the question, not being the intellectual sort who's familiar with the term. His answer is something of an inside joke, referring to a special contest Dragon Eye's Japanese publisher, Kodansha, held, in which contestants collected chocolate balls whose packaging was embossed with angels.